

## **Annual Programme 2025**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Objective of NCR

NCR was founded as a formal cooperation between several Dutch institutions. On October 4, 2012, the partners of the 'Netherlands Centre for River studies' (NCR, Dutch: 'Nederlands Centrum voor Rivierkunde') formally renewed their cooperation within NCR.

The objective of NCR is:

Doelstelling van het NCR is een samenwerking tot stand te brengen tussen de belangrijkste kennisgebruikers en kennisontwikkelaars in Nederland op het gebied van rivieren met als uiteindelijk resultaat een versterking van het kennispotentieel, de profilering van de (inter)nationale positie van het Nederlands rivieronderzoek en het versterken van het onderwijs en het wetenschappelijk onderzoek aan de Nederlandse Universiteiten ten behoeve van een betere inrichting en beheer van de Nederlandse rivieren.

This translates to:

The objective of the NCR is to establish cooperation between the major knowledge suppliers and knowledge users in Netherlands in the field of river studies, with the ultimate aim of reinforcing the knowledge potential, promoting the international position of Dutch river research and strengthen the education & scientific research at Dutch universities, to better design and manage Dutch rivers.

## 1.2 Domains

NCR encompasses all disciplines relevant to river studies as practiced by its institutional partners. They include:

- Hydrodynamics
- Sediment transport and morphology
- Fluvial geomorphology and sedimentology
- River ecology, restoration and water quality
- Governance and spatial planning

- Modelling, serious gaming and digital twins

## 1.3 NCR Organisation

NCR has four main bodies. The mandates for all except Young NCR (YNCR) are documented in the "Overeenkomst Nederlands Centrum voor Rivierkunde 2012".

- **Programme Secretary (Dutch: Programmasecretaris)**  
Safeguards the continuity of NCR activities, secretary to Supervisory Board (SB) and Programme Committee (PC); monitors agreed actions by the SB and PC; reports of NCR finances; management of all NCR communications.
- **Supervisory Board (Dutch: Commissie van Toezicht)**  
Supervises the implementation of the cooperation agreement, settles disputes and approves the scientific programme.
- **Programme Committee (Dutch: Programma-commissie)**  
Determines the scientific programme, stimulates and initiates proposals for activities and integration of knowledge, ideas, experiences and results.
- **Young NCR (Dutch: Jong NCR)**  
Established in December 2020, YNCR strives to strengthen the network of young/early-career scientists within NCR.

## 1.4 Institutional partners

The partners of NCR are: Rijkswaterstaat (RWS), Deltares, Universiteit Twente (UT), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (RUN), Universiteit Utrecht (UU), Technische Universiteit Delft (TUD), Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Leiden University College (LUC), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and IHE Delft.

Each partner contributes in-kind and/or in-cash to realise the annual programme.

## 1.5 Accountability

NCR activities are annually documented in an annual programme, annual report and annual budget. The annual programme and budget are approved by the Supervisory Board.

## 2 Boards

### 2.1 Board membership

NCR partners nominate members for the various boards. Multiple members are allowed per partner, though only the most senior partner present has voting rights during meetings. The boards nominate their own chair. Current chairpersons are prof. dr. Jaap Kwadijk (Supervisory Board), ir. Tobias Nootenboom (Programme Committee) and Jelle Dercksen MSc (YNCR).

### 2.2 Board meetings

The Supervisory Board meets at least once a year to approve the annual programme. The Programme Committee meets three times per year. The programme secretary takes minutes of these meetings. Young NCR meets (bi)monthly and is administered by the the vice programme secretary. Once a year a joint meeting of the boards is called during the NCR Days.

**Table 2.1:** The composition of NCR Boards in 2025. Persons marked with \* are chairpersons.

| Person                        | Partner institution              | Email                                                                                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Programme Secretary</b>    |                                  |                                                                                      |
| ir. Anna van den Hoek*        | Deltares                         | <a href="mailto:anna.vandenhoeck@deltares.nl">anna.vandenhoeck@deltares.nl</a>       |
| ir. Wout Leemeijer            | Deltares                         | <a href="mailto:wout.leemeijer@deltares.nl">wout.leemeijer@deltares.nl</a>           |
| <b>Supervisory Board</b>      |                                  |                                                                                      |
| prof. dr. Jaap Kwadijk*       | Deltares                         | <a href="mailto:jaap.kwadijk@deltares.nl">jaap.kwadijk@deltares.nl</a>               |
| prof. dr. Hans Middelkoop     | Utrecht University               | <a href="mailto:h.middelkoop@uu.nl">h.middelkoop@uu.nl</a>                           |
| dr. ir. Astrid Blom           | Delft University of Technology   | <a href="mailto:astrid.blom@tudelft.nl">astrid.blom@tudelft.nl</a>                   |
| prof. dr. Ton Hoitink         | Wageningen University & Research | <a href="mailto:ton.hoitink@wur.nl">ton.hoitink@wur.nl</a>                           |
| prof. dr. Suzanne Hulscher    | University of Twente             | <a href="mailto:s.j.m.h.hulscher@utwente.nl">s.j.m.h.hulscher@utwente.nl</a>         |
| drs. Monique Busnach-Blankers | Rijkswaterstaat                  | <a href="mailto:monique.busnach-blankers@rws.nl">monique.busnach-blankers@rws.nl</a> |
| dr. Wilco Verberk             | Radboud University Nijmegen      | <a href="mailto:w.verberk@science.ru.nl">w.verberk@science.ru.nl</a>                 |
| dr. Fredrik Huthoff           | IHE Delft                        | <a href="mailto:f.huthoff@un-ihe.org">f.huthoff@un-ihe.org</a>                       |
| prof. dr. Jeroen Aerts        | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam     | <a href="mailto:jeroen.aerts@vu.nl">jeroen.aerts@vu.nl</a>                           |
| <b>Programme Committee</b>    |                                  |                                                                                      |
| ir. Tobias Nootenboom*        | Rijkswaterstaat                  | <a href="mailto:tobias.nootenboom@rws.nl">tobias.nootenboom@rws.nl</a>               |
| drs. Susanne Quartel          | Rijkswaterstaat                  | <a href="mailto:susanne.quartel@rws.nl">susanne.quartel@rws.nl</a>                   |
| dr. Kieran Dunne              | Delft University of Technology   | <a href="mailto:K.B.J.Dunne@tudelft.nl">K.B.J.Dunne@tudelft.nl</a>                   |
| dr. Heleen Vreugdenhil        | Deltares                         | <a href="mailto:heleen.vreugdenhil@deltares.nl">heleen.vreugdenhil@deltares.nl</a>   |
| dr. Victor Chavarrias         | Deltares                         | <a href="mailto:victor.chavarrias@deltares.nl">victor.chavarrias@deltares.nl</a>     |
| dr. Frank Collas              | Radboud University Nijmegen      | <a href="mailto:F.Collas@science.ru.nl">F.Collas@science.ru.nl</a>                   |
| dr. Menno Straatsma           | Utrecht University               | <a href="mailto:m.w.straatsma@uu.nl">m.w.straatsma@uu.nl</a>                         |
| dr. Vasileios Kitsikoudis     | University of Twente             | <a href="mailto:v.kitsikoudis@utwente.nl">v.kitsikoudis@utwente.nl</a>               |
| dr. Kryss Waldschläger        | Wageningen University & Research | <a href="mailto:kryss.waldschlager@wur.nl">kryss.waldschlager@wur.nl</a>             |

|                         |                                             |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| dr. Willem Toonen       | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam                | <a href="mailto:w.h.j.toonen@vu.nl">w.h.j.toonen@vu.nl</a>                         |
| dr. Paolo Scussolini    | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam                | <a href="mailto:p.scussolini@vu.nl">p.scussolini@vu.nl</a>                         |
| dr. Paul Hudson         | Leiden University College                   | <a href="mailto:p.f.hudson@luc.leidenuniv.nl">p.f.hudson@luc.leidenuniv.nl</a>     |
| dr. Francesco Bregoli   | IHE Delft                                   | <a href="mailto:f.bregoli@un-ihe.org">f.bregoli@un-ihe.org</a>                     |
| prof. dr. Ioana Popescu | IHE Delft                                   | <a href="mailto:i.popescu@un-ihe.org">i.popescu@un-ihe.org</a>                     |
| <b>Young NCR</b>        |                                             |                                                                                    |
| Jelle Dercksen MSc*     | Delft University of Technology              | <a href="mailto:J.A.Dercksen@tudelft.nl">J.A.Dercksen@tudelft.nl</a>               |
| ir. Wout Leemeijer      | Deltares                                    | <a href="mailto:wout.leemeijer@deltares.nl">wout.leemeijer@deltares.nl</a>         |
| Simon Smits MSc         | Rijkswaterstaat-WVL                         | <a href="mailto:simon.smits@rws.nl">simon.smits@rws.nl</a>                         |
| Paul Vriend MSc         | Leiden University College & Rijkswaterstaat | <a href="mailto:paul.vriend@rws.nl">paul.vriend@rws.nl</a>                         |
| Henry Amorochodaza MSc  | Delft University of Technology & IHE Delft  | <a href="mailto:h.amorochodaza@un-ihe.org">h.amorochodaza@un-ihe.org</a>           |
| ir. Leon Besseling      | University of Twente                        | <a href="mailto:l.s.besseling@utwente.nl">l.s.besseling@utwente.nl</a>             |
| Miranda Stibora MSc     | Wageningen University & Research            | <a href="mailto:miranda.stibora@wur.nl">miranda.stibora@wur.nl</a>                 |
| Eise Nota MSc           | Utrecht University                          | <a href="mailto:e.w.nota@uu.nl">e.w.nota@uu.nl</a>                                 |
| Joshua Climo MSc        | Radboud University Nijmegen                 | <a href="mailto:joshua.climo@ru.nl">joshua.climo@ru.nl</a>                         |
| Joeri Reinders MSc      | Leiden University College                   | <a href="mailto:j.b.reinders@luc.leidenuniv.nl">j.b.reinders@luc.leidenuniv.nl</a> |
| Veerle Bril MSc         | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam                | <a href="mailto:v.c.bril@vu.nl">v.c.bril@vu.nl</a>                                 |

## 3 Planned activities

### 3.1 Types of events

#### 3.1.1 NCR Days

The NCR DAYS is the annual meeting of the NCR network. It is a two-day conference organised by one of the partners. The organising partner is fully responsible for the organisation of the event. The programme secretary maintains an organiser toolkit to help with the planning and budgeting of this event.

#### 3.1.2 NCR Summerschool

In 2023, the University of Twente successfully organised the first NCR Summerschool. Due to its success, it was decided to host the NCR Summerschool bi-annually.

#### 3.1.3 Meetings

Different meetings of the various boards of NCR are planned, both formal and informal. The Programme Committee meets approximately three times per year, the Supervisory Board once per year and the YNCR board meets as often as they deem necessary. In addition, there is one joint meeting of all the three boards during the NCR Days.

#### 3.1.4 Events

NCR organises various events. Themedays or seminars, which are single or half-day events focused on a single topic or theme, e.g. "Remote sensing of rivers". Other events include field trips, excursions, networking events and workshops. NCR aims to offer all events except for the NCR DAYS and the NCR Summerschool free-of-charge to participants.

### 3.2 Events in 2025

#### 3.2.1 NCR Days

The NCR DAYS 2025 will be organised by Deltares. This is the 27th edition of the NCR DAYS. The theme of this year's conference is "*Crossing Boundaries*". The LOC is headed by dr.ir. Victor Chavarrias. The organisation of the NCR DAYS 2026 (provisionally) falls to Utrecht University.

#### 3.2.2 NCR Summerschool

The first NCR Summerschool for PhD students, postdocs and young professionals working with rivers was organized by the University of Twente (dr. Vasilis Kitsikoudis, dr. Jord Warmink) in 2023. It consisted of a series of lectures and tutorials in topics such as River Hydraulics and Fluid Mechanics, Ecohydraulics, Sediment Transport and River Morphodynamics, both from a technical and a management perspective. There was also a field trip to Nijmegen and the Pannerdensche Kop. All lectures and tutorials were given in English and the Summerschool welcomed participants from all over the world.

A second Summerschool will take place in 2025. It will have the same type of programme as the first one and is organised again by the University of Twente.

#### 3.2.3 Events

This year, the PC intends to organise three different Themedays.

- A potential **joint YNCR - NCR Career Day** with a panel discussion with professionals working in several sectors (e.g., governance, consultancy, research). The target audience is master students and PhD Candidates. Contact persons from NCR-PC are Kryss Waldschläger and Tobias Nootenboom.
- The **NCR Hands-on** is a workshop-style day about modelling fixed weirs. Contact person from NCR-PC is Victor Chavarrias (Deltares).
- Another **Themeday**. The exact theme is not chosen yet, but there were multiple ideas such as: climate change & adaptation and floodplain deposition.

### 3.2.4 YNCR events

YNCR plans to organise various events in 2025:

- 1 *Social event with YNCK*: A fun event to facilitate networking between YNCR and YNCK. The plan is to organize a similar event as last year, like 'jeu de boule' and snacks/drinks in Utrecht.
- 2 *Social event NCR DAYS*: In 2024 the pub-quiz organized by YNCR was well-attended. We would like to keep a social event during the NCR DAYS as a recurring event and therefore aim for a social activity during the conference again in 2025. The activity itself depends on the schedule of the NCR DAYS and the available options near the conference's venue.
- 3 *Annual career event*: We aim for at least one career-related event every year, such as the alumni event (2021), the data visualization workshop (2022), the panel discussion (2023), and the lab tour (2024). For this year we plan to organize together with the Programme Committee a panel discussion with professionals working in several sectors (e.g., governance, consultancy, research). The target audience is master students and PhD Candidates.
- 4 *NCR Summerschool field trip*: After the successful summer school in 2023 in which YNCR organized part of the field trip to the Pannerdense Kop, we aim to invite speakers and organize the walk to the Pannerdense Kop during the NCR Summer School in 2025.
- 5 *Annual field trip*: The summer field trip is an annually recurring event and is usually well appreciated and well visited.
- 6 *Social event*: A fun event to facilitate networking amongst young professionals (e.g., a scavenger hunt, visualization workshop, kayaking or cooking workshop). In contrast to the social event at the start of the year, this event is exclusively organized by YNCR.
- 7 *End of the year YNCR board members get-together*: This is a non-public event in the list. Here, the YNCR board members meet in person to discuss plans for the next year and get to know each other better.
- 8 *Social event with YNCK ('26)*: A fun event to facilitate networking amongst young professionals. This event is paid for by the 2026 budget.

## NCR Annual Programme 2025

|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              |                          |              |                |              |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1  | december 30     | 2               | januari 6   | 3                 | januari 13   | 4                        | januari 20   | 5              | januari 27   |
|    | Christmas Break |                 |             |                   |              |                          | pc-91        |                |              |
| 6  | februari 3      | 7               | februari 10 | 8                 | februari 17  | 9                        | februari 24  | 10             | maart 3      |
|    |                 |                 |             | Spring Break *    |              | Spring Break *           |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             | sb-26             |              |                          |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             | YNCR Social       |              |                          |              |                |              |
| 11 | maart 10        | 12              | maart 17    | 13                | maart 24     | 14                       | maart 31     | 15             | april 7      |
| 16 | april 14        | 17              | april 21    | 18                | april 28     | 19                       | mei 5        | 20             | mei 12       |
|    |                 |                 |             | May Break         |              | jm-16                    |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | YNCR Social              |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | NCR DAYS 2024            |              |                |              |
| 21 | mei 19          | 22              | mei 26      | 23                | juni 2       | 24                       | juni 9       | 25             | juni 16      |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | Career event*            |              | ICW2025        |              |
| 26 | juni 23         | 27              | juni 30     | 28                | juli 7       | 29                       | juli 14      | 30             | juli 21      |
|    |                 |                 |             | Summer Break *    |              | Summer Break *           |              | Summer Break   |              |
|    |                 |                 |             | Field trip        |              |                          |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             | Summerschool 2025 |              |                          |              |                |              |
| 31 | juli 28         | 32              | augustus 4  | 33                | augustus 11  | 34                       | augustus 18  | 35             | augustus 25  |
|    |                 | Summer Break    |             |                   |              | Summer Break *           |              | Summer Break * |              |
| 36 | september 1     | 37              | september 8 | 38                | september 15 | 39                       | september 22 | 40             | september 29 |
|    | RCEM 2025       |                 | pc-92       |                   |              |                          |              |                |              |
|    | Field trip*     |                 |             |                   |              |                          |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | Fixed weirs<br>Hands-on* |              |                |              |
| 41 | oktober 6       | 42              | oktober 13  | 43                | oktober 20   | 44                       | oktober 27   | 45             | november 3   |
|    |                 | Autumn break *  |             | Autumn break *    |              |                          |              | Social event * |              |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | NCR Themeday<br>2024*    |              |                |              |
| 46 | november 10     | 47              | november 17 | 48                | november 24  | 49                       | december 1   | 50             | december 8   |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | YNCR meet-up *           |              |                |              |
|    |                 |                 |             |                   |              | pc-93                    |              |                |              |
| 51 | december 15     | 52              | december 22 |                   |              |                          |              |                |              |
|    |                 | Christmas break |             |                   |              |                          |              |                |              |

|  |                                                  |
|--|--------------------------------------------------|
|  | Dutch national holiday (*in part of the country) |
|  | Relevant (int.) conference                       |
|  | NCR Event (*tentative date)                      |
|  | YNCR Event (*tentative date)                     |
|  | Research Programme Event (*tentative date)       |
|  | Committee Meeting                                |

## 4 Research

### 4.1 Projects

Research projects are scientific endeavors that may consist of work-packages, themes and sub-projects. Multiple researchers may work on the same research project. NCR does not initiate or lead its own research projects. Instead, research projects of NCR members are promoted through the services NCR offers (see [Secretary and Services](#)). A list of ongoing NCR projects is available on the [NCR Project portal](#).

### 4.2 Publications

Academic and non-academic publications by NCR partners are promoted through the NCR services (see [Secretary and Services](#)). Any publication written by at least one (co-)author with an affiliation at an NCR institutional partner is eligible. A list of promoted publications is available on the [NCR publications portal](#).

| Project       | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Main contact          | Started |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Rivers2Morrow | The Rivers2Morrow is a research project of 8 PhD research topics that investigate the consequences of climate change and large-scale human interventions on the river functions water safety, nature, and navigability, and what it takes to keep these manageable. It will increase the system knowledge of lowland rivers with respect to hydraulics, morphology, ecology and governance, with a focus on developments that take place on a long temporal time scale until 2100 (and some beyond). In 2023, the program is extended with 3 new PhD topics and maybe more to come. | ir. Tobias Nootenboom | 2018    |

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------|
| SaltiSolutions | <p>Freshwater is vital for drinking water, nature, agriculture and industry. However, the availability of freshwater is under pressure in deltas throughout the world. Salty seawater is penetrating further up the rivers due to human intervention, such as the deepening of waterways, as equally climate change. Within SALTISolutions, the researchers, together with the partners involved such as Rijkswaterstaat, water boards, port authorities and dredging companies, will produce a virtual model (digital twin) of the Rhine-Meuse Delta. This model will integrate knowledge about processes on various spatial and time scales: from turbulent flows at the smallest scale level to the consequences of climate change in the long-term. They will use this to predict how, where, when, and how long salt from seawater will penetrate, and how measures such as implementing nature-based solutions influence the freshwater supply. These insights will be tested worldwide, as a result of which the position of Dutch delta technology will be further strengthened.</p>                                                                                                                                                                 | Mw. J. Grootveld (program manager) | 2021 |
| Delta ENIGMA   | <p>On 4 December 2023, the Delta ENIGMA project has successfully begun with its seven collaborating partners. The consortium is formed by Utrecht University, Delft University of Technology, University of Twente, Wageningen University and Research, NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Deltares and TNO. Delta ENIGMA is a NWO funded Large Scale Research Infrastructure (LSRI) roadmap project that will be active for a decade, from 2023 to 2033. It is the Dutch contribution to the European DANUBIUS-RI initiative which aims at a comprehensive measurement, documentation and analysis of the (sediment, water, biological) connectivity in the river-estuary-coast continuum. The project aims to turn the Dutch delta into a world-leading 'supersite' for research on delta bio-geomorphology under climate change. This would bring bio geomorphology research in the Netherlands to the next level by establishing a unique infrastructure on how the physical processes (organisms, currents, waves, winds and sediment load) together shape the delta landscape, even during extreme events. More detailed information can be found on our website, <a href="https://delta-enigma.nl/">https://delta-enigma.nl/</a>.</p> | Dr. Smriti Dutta                   | 2023 |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           |      |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| NL2120     | The NL2120 knowledge and innovation programme invests in research into nature-based solutions. The aim is to mitigate climate impacts, restore biodiversity while preserving production capacity and strengthening well-being. Within these projects, the parties involved learn about the operation of natural solutions, innovative revenue models and social transition processes. The integrated approach makes the proposal unique. By combining knowledge development and practical experience, NL2120 integrates, deepens and enriches existing knowledge. | Dr. Bregje van Wesenbeeck | 2024 |
| Future FRM | Adequate protection against flooding is essential for the existence of the Netherlands. There is a very large challenge to reinforce the current flood defence system in our densely populated country, while also adapting it to deal with accelerating sea level rise and increasing river runoff. In this program "Future FRM Tech" we will develop new technical, nature-based and hybrid solutions for flood risk management and climate adaptation.                                                                                                         | Prof. dr. ir. Bas Jonkman | 2023 |

## 5 Secretary and Services

### 5.1 Overview

To support river studies, NCR offers services to its institutional partners. These services are coordinated by the Programme Secretary. All services are offered free of charge. These include:

- **Website & Knowledge base.** Partners may use the NCR website to host a project website and promote their publications.
- **Mailing list & LinkedIn** Partners may distribute information, vacancies and news through the NCR mailing list and LinkedIn company page.

Research projects may use the mailing list to send out newsletters to the network.

- **Vimeo** NCR offers hosting of videos on the NCR vimeo account

### 5.2 Plans for 2025

Last year the draft collaboration agreement was revised to version 0.6. This year, we plan review by various legal departments of NCR partners and we hope to sign the new agreement soon.