

Annual Programme 2026

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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 beter 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 dr. Nathalie Asselman (Supervisory Board), ir. Tobias Nootenboom (Programme Committee) and Veerle Bril 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 2026. Persons marked with * are chairpersons.

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

dr. Willem Toonen	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	w.h.j.toonen@vu.nl
dr. Paolo Scussolini	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	p.scussolini@vu.nl
dr. Paul Hudson	Leiden University College	p.f.hudson@luc.leidenuniv.nl
dr. Francesco Bregoli	IHE Delft	f.bregoli@un-ihe.org
dr. Joeri Reinders	Leiden University College	j.b.reinders@luc.leidenuniv.nl
Young NCR		
Veerle Bril MSc*	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	v.c.bril@vu.nl
ir. Wout Leemeijer	Deltares	wout.leemeijer@deltares.nl
Simon Smits MSc	Rijkswaterstaat-WVL	simon.smits@rws.nl
Deborah Dotta Correa MSc	Delft University of Technology & IHE Delft	d.dottacorrea@un-ihe.org
ir. Leon Besseling	University of Twente	l.s.besseling@utwente.nl
Miranda Stibora MSc	Wageningen University & Research	miranda.stibora@wur.nl
Eise Nota MSc	Utrecht University	e.w.nota@uu.nl
Joshua Climo MSc	Radboud University Nijmegen	joshua.climo@ru.nl
ir. Micheal Ogunyemi	Technische Universiteit Delft	M.O.Ogunyemi@tudelft.nl

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 Summer School

In 2023 and 2025, the University of Twente successfully organised the first and second NCR Summer School. Due to its success, it was decided to host the NCR Summerschool bi-annually. Both editions 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 the Pannerdensche Kop. All lectures and tutorials were given in English and the Summer School welcomed participants from all over the world.

A third Summer School will take place in 2027. It will have the same type of programme. The decision about who will organize it has not yet been made.

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 Summer School free-of-charge to participants.

3.2 Events in 2026

3.2.1 NCR Days

The NCR DAYS 2026 will be organised by Utrecht University and will take place on April 16 and 17. This is the 28th edition of the NCR DAYS. The theme of this year's conference is "*Navigating rivers*". The LOC is headed by dr. Menno Straatsma. The organisation of the NCR DAYS 2027 (provisionally) falls to Rijkswaterstaat.

3.2.2 Events

This year, the PC intends to organise the following:

- **NCR Hands-on:** a workshop-style day about modelling fixed weirs. This theme afternoon is already planned and will take place on February 24. Contact person from NCR-PC is Victor Chavarrias (Deltares).
- **Canoeing excursion:** NCR biogeomorphological field visit to the Allier from May 27 to May 30. Contact person from NCR-PC is Menno Straatsma (University Utrecht).
- **Themeday:** probably on measures or solutions for holding fresh water during low water periods and droughts. This event is not planned yet. Contact person from NCR-PC are Susanne Quartel and Tobias Nootenboom (Rijkswaterstaat).

3.2.3 YNCR events

YNCR plans to organise various events in 2026:

- 1 **Social event:** A fun event to facilitate networking amongst young professionals (e.g., kayaking or bouldering).
- 2 **Social event NCR DAYS:** In 2025 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 2026. 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), the lab tour (2024) and the Discover-you-Future-event (2025).
- 4 **Annual field trip:** The summer field trip is an annually recurring event and is usually well appreciated and well visited.

- 5 **Social event:** Another social event to facilitate networking amongst young river professionals.
- 6 **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
- 7 **Social event with YNCK ('27):** A fun event to facilitate networking amongst young professionals. This event is paid for by the 2027 budget.

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1 december 29	2 januari 5	3 januari 12	4 januari 19	5 januari 26
Christmas Break				pc-94
6 februari 2	7 februari 9	8 februari 16	9 februari 23	10 maart 2
	sb-28	Spring Break *	Spring Break *	
			YNCR Social	
			NCR hands-on	
11 maart 9	12 maart 16	13 maart 23	14 maart 30	15 april 6
16 april 13	17 april 20	18 april 27	19 mei 4	20 mei 11
NCR DAYS 2025		May Break		
YNCR Social				
jm-17				
21 mei 18	22 mei 25	23 juni 1	24 juni 8	25 juni 15
	Canoe Excursion		sb-29*	Career event*
26 juni 22	27 juni 29	28 juli 6	29 juli 13	30 juli 20
	RIVER FLOW	Summer Break *	Summer Break *	Summer Break
31 juli 27	32 augustus 3	33 augustus 10	34 augustus 17	35 augustus 24
	Summer Break		Summer Break *	Summer Break *
36 augustus 31	37 september 7	38 september 14	39 september 21	40 september 28
	pc-95*		Field Trip*	Theme Day*
41 oktober 5	42 oktober 12	43 oktober 19	44 oktober 26	45 november 2
YNCR Social*	Autumn break *	Autumn break *		
46 november 9	47 november 16	48 november 23	49 november 30	50 december 7
			pc-96*	
			YNCR meet-up*	
51 december 14	52 december 21			
	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 currently 13 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 along temporal time scale until 2100 (and some beyond). The program started in 2018 with 8 PhD research tracks. In 2023, the program is extended with 5 new PhD topics and maybe more to come.	ir. Tobias Nootenboom	2018

SaltiSolutions	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.	Mw. J. Grootveld (program manager)	2021
Delta ENIGMA	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, https://delta-enigma.nl/.	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 2026

Last year the draft collaboration agreement was revised to version 0.8. This year, we plan review by various legal departments of NCR partners and we hope to sign the new agreement soon.