

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Jyothi Thrivikraman Daniela Vicherat Mattar
Title of clinic:	Tackling Food Waste in The Hague: The case of Vers en Vrij
Number of students:	6 to 10
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	Qualitative Methods (ideally have successfully completed it, or taking it in semester 1)

Research context

Vers&Vrij (V&V) (<https://versenvrij.nl/>), is a Dutch NGO based in The Hague that works to reduce food waste while addressing food insecurity in the city. The basic principle is that leftover food from collaborating restaurants is collected by V&V, processed and placed in one of the 27 fridges throughout the city (in second hand shops, libraries, etc). Those who need food can collect these boxes free of charge, and take as many as they need. V&V has been operating with this model since 2019 and it is rapidly expanding. It is time to conduct a detailed review of its operations, and that is where this clinic comes in. The objective of this RC is to conduct a case study that helps the organization better understand its impact, and identify the different needs throughout the process of converting discarded food into edible food. This is important because it can be translated into further structural support to V&V by the municipality. The participation of LUC (faculty and students) is thus required to help V&V better position itself as a key actor in the reduction of food waste and food insecurity in The Hague.

Students' tasks and activities

Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.

The research clinic will be held in semester 1 (blocks 1 & 2). Students will need to:

- A) Conduct literature review of relevant material (similar cases/experiences in Europe and beyond)
- B) Participant observations of V&V operations
- C) Review/systematization of relevant documentation (V&V annual reports/media coverage, etc)
- D) Interviews/participant observations with those hosting & using the fridges (mapping & visualization skills are relevant here too).

Students will be divided into groups based on topic of interest and language ability. Dutch is required to conduct the fieldwork, but not for the literature review and observation/mapping tasks.

The RC will be carried out both at LUC in the format of research team meetings (updating progress on fieldwork, reflecting on the research experience & helping write the report on V&V functioning) and in the city producing the necessary data to elaborate the above deliverables. Final reports are to become part of V&V own report to be sent to the municipality.