

[Association of Dutch and Flemish university language centres]

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



1 Introduction

This past year the NUT has once again consolidated its position in internal and external networks. To better highlight our role, a decision was made in the Managers' Meeting at the conference to change our name to *Nederlandse en Vlaamse Universitaire Talencentra* (Association of Dutch and Flemish university language centres). After all, our concern is with more than just Dutch.

Internally, we set up a number of new initiatives, such as the *NUT project of the year* and an additional meeting prior to the Managers' Afternoon. That meeting was devoted to language policy; policy officers from the affiliated educational institutions were expressly invited, alongside the NUT partners. During the past year we have also been able to welcome the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences as a new member.

Externally, the focus – once again – was on the position of highly-educated non-Dutch speakers, particularly refugees, a theme that is also high on the political and social agenda in Flanders. In this context the NUT Board sent a letter to 'Blik op Werk' with a request to take members' input (including that of many NUT members) more seriously. The NT2 theme group prepared a letter to the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment containing recommendations for a better and more differentiated integration policy. Lastly, the NUT Board gave presentations at an education day organised by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU).

During this past year the Anglicisation of education was high on the agenda, not just for politicians and the media but for the universities themselves. This has prompted an even greater focus on language policy within educational institutions. The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) published two reports on this theme last year and set up the Language Platform to promote the role of multilingualism within Dutch education. The NUT ties in with this initiative wherever possible or necessary.

This is the report of the NUT's 2017-2018 working year. The members of the Board hope you enjoy this review of the past year.

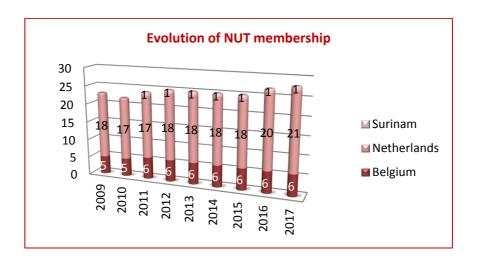


2 Key figures

26+1+1

In the 2017-2018 working year, the NUT welcomed one new member: the Language Team from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. There are now 27 members in total, six Belgian and 21 Dutch, including seven universities of applied sciences. The NUT also has one associate member in Surinam.

For the complete and most recent list of members, see www.nut-talen.eu/leden.



3 2017-2018: what the NUT did

3.1 March 2017: Conference – Utrecht

The annual NUT Conference was held in Utrecht on 16 and 17 March. It was well-attended and highly successful, with participants giving it a rating of 3.83 (on a scale from 1 to 4).





The conference kicked off on Thursday 16 March with a fascinating walk through the city. This was followed by drinks and dinner, allowing plenty of opportunities to catch up with counterparts at other institutes.

On Friday 17 March the day began in traditional fashion with the theme group meetings. After lunch the prize for *NUT project of the year* was awarded and the various expert meetings were held. This year's approach was to make the afternoon sessions more interactive, with a greater emphasis on sharing experiences and ideas. The evaluations showed that this approach was much appreciated.

The day ended with a cabaret. Two cabaret artists had attended the theme group meetings and the lunch and they based their performances on what they had seen and heard. This gave an interesting look behind the scenes at the different theme groups. It was an enjoyable and humorous way to end a successful conference.

3.2 November 2017: Theme Afternoon for Managers (and policy officers) – Leiden

The Theme Afternoon for NUT Managers, which is held every year, took place on 10 November last year in Leiden. This time it was decided to have a Theme Day, rather than a Theme Afternoon. The morning's theme was 'language policy', and invitations had gone out not only to NUT managers but also to policy officers and other interested parties. The morning was chaired by Prof. Folkert Kuiken, University of Amsterdam. After six presentations on language policy by NUT members, the morning concluded with a lively discussion. This was followed by a short tour of the historical Academy Building and then lunch. The managers continued with a brief meeting before discussing the afternoon's theme 'Positioning the language centre', facilitated by Prof. Jos Schaeken from Leiden University. Pauline Post gave a presentation on the outcomes of the trainee study that she had organised on this subject in 2016. This was followed by a discussion, which highlighted the fact that a language centre's success depends not so much on its positioning but on its visibility and its ability to influence developments within the university or university of applied sciences. The day ended with drinks.







3.3 January 2018: Teachers' Day – Brussels

The NUT Teachers' Day took place in Brussels on 19 January. Despite the severe storm in the Netherlands on the previous day and the ongoing train disruptions, the final number of participants was close to ninety.

Participants were welcomed by Sylvia van der Weerden, chair of the NUT, who emphasised Brussels' unique character as a multicultural city. In their opening addresses, Lieven Buysse, dean of the KU Leuven Campus Brussels, and



Wim Vandenbussche, chair of the ACTO academic language centre at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, also spoke about Brussels' unique advantages: languages are best studied where they are spoken, and where better than in Brussels?

Kris Buyse, the first keynote speaker, then seized the proverbial bull by the horns and introduced the theme of Teachers' Day with his highly successful presentation: 'From "feedback" on retroalimentacion to "commentary": why we lost the Northerners? Or on "feedback" and its essence in language teaching'.

Katja Lochtman, the second keynote speaker, also entertained the audience with a fascinating talk entitled 'Improvements in foreign language teaching: What, when, how and why?'

Eight interactive sessions had been scheduled to follow. One was cancelled at the last minute because the severe weather prevented the speaker from getting to Brussels. Another session was replaced by a Skype session.



The teachers were happy with the sessions they attended, in which they learned more about various aspects of feedback: online (live), on written products, as part of ongoing evaluation, in international classes, and scales to facilitate feedback. The interactive nature of the sessions was also very much appreciated.

The day ended with drinks and nibbles and a fantastic tour of Brussels. The evaluation forms showed a very high general appreciation of this

NUT Teachers' Day. One of the nice comments was: 'What a party! So well organised, no detail forgotten and it all ran so smoothly and enjoyably!'

3.4 CercleS

On 7 and 8 September 2017 Sylvia van der Weerden attended the biennial meeting of the Coordinating Committee of CercleS in Helsinki, Finland, where she discussed the following topics together with the chairs of other national branch organisations:

- The conference in Poznan in 2018.
- The drafting of the statutes. These were clearly not in order when the new CercleS Board took office. The Board is currently working on them.
- Mission, vision and communication. There is a transition underway within CercleS towards greater transparency.



The Language Learning in Higher Education (LLHE) journal. Dr Breffni O'Rourke has been appointed the new editor in chief, successor to Prof. David Little.

Next, the national associations of Spain and Poland agreed to accept one another's certificates for assessment, following a long period of consultation. The Czech Republic and Poland announced a joint initiative for a two-day conference to exchange information.

3.5 External representation

The Board has also had contact with various stakeholders during the past year and has strengthened its networks.

A conference on internationalisation (how to successfully integrate international and Dutch students), organised by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and the Dutch Student Union (LSVb), was held on Friday 17 November 2017. The NUT was invited to give a presentation. Katja Hunfeld and Sylvia van der Weerden described the work of NUT, and then outlined the activities we undertake in relation to language and (intercultural) communication for students, using examples from different language centres.

On behalf of the NUT, Sylvia van der Weerden attended the Drongo Festival and the presentation of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) report 'Talen voor Nederland' (Languages for the Netherlands). The creation of the Language Platform was announced at the KNAW event, aimed at bolstering the language sector in the Netherlands. The Platform will be chaired by Prof. Mike Hannay and the NUT has of course put itself forward as a sparring partner.

On Monday 29 January 2018 Stef Slembrouck and Gea Hakker visited the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie) on behalf of the NUT Board and talked to Prof. Hans Bennis. It was primarily an introductory discussion since Bennis is the new manager and hadn't yet spoken to the NUT. Matters discussed included the KNAW report 'Talen voor Nederland' by the Muyskens committee and the current situation regarding integration. Bennis said that he would also like to promote multilingualism on behalf of the Taalunie and that he is willing to give an address to the NUT.

On Thursday 1 March Gea Hakker and Sylvia van der Weerden paid a visit to NUFFIC in Den Haag, where they spoke to Stephan Meershoek, manager of primary and secondary education services (PO/VO), and Onno van Wilgenburg, language coordinator. Topics covered were the plans of Curriculum.nu (development teams working on new plans for primary and secondary education in nine subject areas), intercultural communication and the Pathfinder tool developed by NUFFIC for international students, which contains a wealth of practical information. They then talked about the Anglicisation of university education and Van Wilgenburg offered to come and share his knowledge and experience of bilingual education at a NUT meeting.

On 15 March Marc Gebuis and Sylvia van der Weerden visited the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) in The Hague. A range of current themes were discussed in an open discussion with officials from the Internationalisation team. The use of English in higher education – and its implications for quality and accessibility – was the main topic since it is currently receiving so much attention both inside universities and in the public debate. On 3 April the Minister will debate this topic with the Dutch House of Representatives. The NUT has put forward a nuanced picture, examples and best practices. We have also pointed out the importance of teacher skills for the international classroom. We agreed with our discussion partners that we would keep one another informed of important developments.



On Thursday 15 March Gea Hakker and Sylvia van der Weerden visited the VSNU in The Hague, where they spoke to Jurgen Rienks, Director of International Relations (who was unfortunately called away), and Lieke Staal, International Relations policy advisor. The topics covered were VSNU lobbying in Brussels (in particular for research funding) via Neth-er and the Education Steering Group's recommendations for language policy: university staff should have a minimum of C1 level; universities should work on promoting students' communication skills in Dutch; and there should be a joint meeting on language policy in 2018. We were also told that the VSNU would put forward an internationalisation agenda, 'Quality of Internationalisation', in April, and the Ministry would then produce a vision document on internationalisation before the summer. We pointed out the key role played by intercultural competencies.

3.6 Changing legislation in the Netherlands

The suspension of enforcement of the Assessment of Employment Relationship (Deregulation) Act (DBA) has since been extended to 1 January 2020. Until then employers and employees won't have to pay penalties or additional taxes if it is discovered retrospectively that there was in fact an employment relationship. After all the commotion of last year, this theme is no longer an urgent one for the NUT.

3.7 Integration into the Netherlands

Recently the theme of integration has continued to be a hot topic. The NUT Board has followed developments and maintained contact with various stakeholders. The NT2 theme group is represented in the Blik op Werk advisory group. In autumn, together with the Dutch Council for Training and Education (NRTO), the NUT sent a letter to the manager of Blik op Werk about problems concerning that consultative body, namely that feedback from those holding quality labels is not taken seriously enough and the organisation of consultations leaves a lot to be desired. There has been no response as yet from Blik op Werk.

In February the NT2 theme group took the initiative of sending a letter to the Minister about problems relating to integration, including recommendations for the new policy currently being drafted by the Ministry. The letter was also sent to MPs and journalists. The NUT is advocating greater supervision by municipalities, individual funding (as at present), differentiated and innovative integration programmes, dealing with peaks at DUO, and better contact between language providers and social service providers.

The Board will continue to monitor developments closely.

4 Theme groups

The NUT Board and the theme group chairs hold a meeting annually in December, to which the organiser of the NUT Conference is also invited. During the meeting on 7 December 2017, the theme group chairs outlined what had happened in their theme group over the past year. Ideas were also exchanged for the preparation and organisation of the Conference in Groningen.



4.1 Academic Language Skills theme group



Theme group chairs Tom de Moor (University Language Centre, Ghent University) and Estelle Meima (Language Centre, University of Groningen)

In October 2017 Tom took over the co-chair baton from Marijke Kranenburg (Language Centre, VU University Amsterdam).



The meeting of the Academic Language Skills theme group was well-attended during the NUT Conference in Utrecht. Twenty-three people from 14 different language centres were present, including no fewer than three newcomers: Saxion University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands Defence Academy and the VUB Vrije Universiteit Brussel. After meeting the new members, a representative of each language centre spoke for exactly two minutes about a new development or example of best practice from their centre. Participants learned about the Tilburg pre-Bachelor's programme for refugees and the recruitment and information activities aimed at secondary schools. Next up was the marketing of open courses in

Academic English, with affiliated universities playing a role that spanned the spectrum from facilitating to delaying. How do you deal with this? A key recommendation is to clarify the ultimate return on investment of these extracurricular courses for those involved at the university. There was also a very interesting demo of the RATEr diagnostic test developed by Radboud in'to Languages; a participant was given assistance with a new language policy ('Where do we start?'), and the testing and honing of teachers' English-medium instruction skills was discussed.

In 2018 the theme group chairs are keen to work on promoting contact between group members throughout the year. They would like to encourage members to be part of a working group to conduct a small study during the year and present the results at the meeting in 2019. The themes that could be worked on are based on problems outlined in reports of the previous meeting and which also fit within the theme of 'future-proof language centres':

- Academic obstacles for refugees who have learned Dutch and who are now using the language in higher education: documenting the differences between academic activity in the home country and in Belgium/the Netherlands
- Curriculum development: a comparison of the academic curricula of the participating language centres in order to document trends and key differences
- The value of academic language teaching: a poster that can serve as a promo tool for the sometimes undervalued courses (KNAW report as a possible starting point).

The theme group chairs would also like to gauge further opportunities or problems by:

- Sending an online questionnaire to participants in advance
- Asking each language centre to give a presentation during the meeting on the biggest breakthrough and obstacle in 2017.

If possible, an additional session will be scheduled between the meetings, involving a group activity and working group meeting.



4.2 Intercultural Communication theme group



Theme group chair Vincent Merk (CLIC, Eindhoven University of Technology)

At the NUT conference the Intercultural Communication (IC) theme group met for the third time in its brief existence. About ten representatives from Dutch and Flemish institutions were present.

The agenda included the following items:

- The current IC situation at the institutions represented
- Summary of and responses to the NUT Teachers' Day IC (13 January 2017)
- Group discussion of the IC vision and plans for the year/years ahead
- Exchanging experiences of working for and with refugees, often from an NT2 background.

The Intercultural Communication theme group organised a study day for the first time on Friday 20 October 2017 for its own members and for NT2 theme group members, around the central theme of 'Intercultural communication in higher education'. The hosts and co-organisers were theme group chair Vincent Merk from Eindhoven University of Technology and Annemie Decavele, a member of the theme group and of the Institute for Living Languages (ILT) at KU Leuven. The ILT hosted the representatives from various Dutch and Flemish language centres in Leuven. First up on the programme was Edwin Hoffman, researcher, trainer and advisor on 'Intercultural communication and diversity', who presented an impassioned vision of interculturalism, followed by his well-known TOPOI model. He then applied the model to case studies contributed by the participants. In the afternoon there were two practical workshops. Together with Yvonne Verhoeff, a trainer in intercultural communication and a member of SIETAR-NL, the participants explored an online course in intercultural communication, based on Geert Hofstede's six dimensions (see https://www.odat.nl/). These underpin the entire development of interculturalism in practical terms. Michaela Carriere of the University of Groningen then presented insights from her own experience with refugees, as well as a new practical tool: the Cultural Detective Package for Syrian refugees, thereby establishing a link between interculturalism and NT2 as a teaching subject that has a great deal to do with intercultural communication.

The enthusiasm of participants and the fruitful exchange of experiences and ideas have given us an appetite for more and we are looking forward to the next meeting.

4.3 Modern Foreign Languages theme group



Theme group chair Kasper Maes (Radboud in'to Languages, Radboud University Nijmegen)

The MFL theme group also expanded in 2017. Fifteen people from eleven language centres attended the meeting in Utrecht. At the meeting we took leave of the current secretary Mercè Minguella García, who had performed this role for no less than six years! Her role was taken over by Rosanne Schuurmans from Wageningen in'to Languages. The position of chair also

fell vacant after a period of two years. Kasper Maes said that he would be happy to continue for a further two years, which everyone agreed to. A recurring element of the meeting are the 'show & tells': this time six people presented current projects and good examples from their language



centres. Once again, there were some very fine examples, such as from the Defence Language Centre and two tandem projects (Leuven and Maastricht).

During the annual study afternoon for MFL teachers in June (this time in Wageningen), we worked on the theme of 'flipping the classroom'. After an introduction by Katherine Anderton, people separated into groups to discuss examples of flipping the classroom from their own teaching practice. They set to work on 'flipping' their own lessons and then presented their findings to one another. Once again, this edition of the study afternoon was both very informative and enjoyable!

The following items are on the MFL agenda for the coming year:

- the annual theme group meeting, to be held in Groningen
- getting language centres who are not yet represented (still about three) involved in the group
- a survey of members to investigate how we can make the theme group even more active and set up projects or other opportunities for collaboration
- in June, organising another study afternoon specifically for MFL teachers.

4.4 Dutch as a Second Language (NT2) theme group



Theme group chair Berna de Boer (Language Centre, University Groningen)

The annual meeting of the NT2 theme group was attended by sixteen people representing fourteen language institutes. Carlo van der Meer of the Eindhoven University of Technology was welcomed for the first time. Also present was Stefan Vanhooren on behalf of the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie), which makes a financial contribution each year for the theme group's activities. He also talked about the new functioning of the

Taalunie. Astrid van der Laar (Delft) continues as a welcome representative of the theme group in the new PONT2 platform. Maud Beersmans (Utrecht) will join the Blik op Werk advisory group. If a language institute in the Netherlands doesn't have a Blik op Werk quality label, people wishing to integrate cannot use their Education Executive Agency (DUO) loan for language courses at that institute.

There was also discussion of the preparation for 'high-stakes' tests. Texts with multiple-choice questions appear to be a stumbling block for current course participants. Concerns were also expressed about possible cultural bias in the texts. Following this topic, people then divided into groups to discuss experiences with refugees in education. What adaptations have already been made? What obstacles still remain?

The NT2 theme group meets only once a year but members see one another more frequently at other study days. It is a tight-knit group that has been together for a long time: members know how to get in touch if need be.

Next year there will undoubtedly be a continuing focus on refugees, but digital assessment has also been proposed as a possible theme.



4.5 Translation theme group



Theme group chair Bert Keurentjes (Radboud in'to Languages, Radboud University Nijmegen)

For the Translation theme group, 2017 was largely dominated by HOTNeV. This is a slimmed-down version of the project concerning the European style guide and database for higher education terminology, for which the CercleS Translation Focus Group has twice submitted an application for an Erasmus+ grant and been rejected. A steering and working group headed

by theme group member Julia Harvey from Groningen is creating a database of English higher education terms and exclusively Dutch translations. The working group, which comprises the NUT Translation theme group supplemented by several other experts, met in May and October of last year to try to reach consensus on as many English terms and their translations as possible. The HOTNeV working group will also meet several times in the coming year, together with the steering group, with the aim of arriving at a database of approved terms that is substantial enough to submit for approval to the boards of the universities in the Dutch-speaking area.

In the theme group meeting during the NUT days in Utrecht, there was room not only for HOTNeV, but also for a lively discussion led by Antwerp member Samantha Brunt on measuring client satisfaction with translation work. This followed on from a study on this subject that she had worked on for Linguapolis and for which she had sent a questionnaire to theme group members beforehand. After the very interesting discussion from many different perspectives (due in part to the different situations of the members' translation services), there was still a brief opportunity to talk about another hot topic in the world of university translation: the tendering (compulsory or otherwise) of translation work. Here too, the different organisational set-ups of the institutes represented by the theme group members prompted a very interesting exchange of views: tendering is not even an issue, for example, for language centres that are not formally part of a university.

There is usually a second occasion each year when the theme group meets prior to the Terminology Day that is traditionally held in autumn, but the 2017 edition was shifted to Friday 23 February 2018. Eindhoven's theme group member Steven Ralston was the host on that day on behalf of the Language Center at Eindhoven University of Technology. Other interested parties in addition to the NUT theme group members were welcome to attend the afternoon of workshops and presentations.

It has already been announced that the next edition of the Terminology Day will be held in Groningen in spring 2018. Leaving aside the HOTNeV working group meetings, it therefore looks as though the Translation theme group will meet three times. Naturally, the theme group is hoping for just as big a turnout as during the NUT days in Utrecht, when no fewer than ten members were represented (which is a lot if you consider that not all university language centres have a 'proper' translation department).



5 Internal communication

5.1 Modifying the NUT logo

The name NUT stands for 'Nederlandstalige Universitaire Talencentra', or Dutch-language university language centres. It was apparent that the term 'Dutch-language' wasn't always clear to outsiders: a number of universities in the Netherlands are bilingual, for example, or have English as the sole language of instruction. The NUT logo has therefore been given a different subtitle: 'Dutch and Flemish University Language Centres'. The original name will be retained in the NUT statutes.



5.2 NUT newsletter and website



The NUT newsletter is issued five times a year: in February, April, June, October and December.

Since we launched the new newsletter in 2015, anyone has been able to subscribe. However, we still email the newsletter to all NUT managers so that they can then forward it to all their staff.

The newsletters covered all the NUT activities, and many language centres also used the newsletter to share their own activities and achievements.

These sections and all other news items are also always placed on the website: www.NUT talen.eu/over-taal/blog.

In 2017, the website was further supplemented by more factual information from the NUT language centres, based on the following

questions:

- In which areas is the language centre active?
- Which target groups does the language centre serve?
- For which languages does the language centre offer courses?
- What form do these courses take?
- Does the language centre offer other products or services?
- How many course participants are served by the language centre each year?
- How many staff are employed at the language centre?
- What is the language centre's mission and vision?

In 2017 the website attracted some 7,700 visitors (over 21,000 page views), which is about 16% less than in 2016. The Board kindly requests members to check whether their own language centre website has a link to the NUT website and, if not, to add it. Members who use Twitter are also requested to follow the NUT. We launched a NUT account in 2017: @NUTTalen.

5.4 NUT project of the year

The members of the NUT members are active and dynamic organisations: great things are happening within every language centre, but we don't always know enough about this. The 'NUT project of the year' award was launched in 2016 to enable us to learn from and about one another.





Nine language centres had nominated a project for this first award. Babel Language Centre (Utrecht University) was announced the winner during the 'NUT project of the year 2017' election at the NUT Conference in Utrecht on 17 March! Their project, 'Online NT2 courses for refugees', was voted among the top three by the NUT members and was selected as the winner by the expert jury.

More information can be found at

www.nut-talen.eu/activiteiten/nut-project-van-het-jaar.

5.5 Archive for NUT managers

Dropbox was once again the central archive for NUT documents and other interesting documents in 2017-2018. The different folders in Dropbox are:

- Benchmarking
- Administrative documents
- CercleS
- Fact sheet
- Photos
- Membership list
- NUT Conference
- NUT Teachers' Day
- NUT Project of the Year *new folder in 2017*
- NUT Theme Afternoon for Managers
- Useful information
- Templates and NUT logo
- Freelancers discussion



6 Facts and figures

6.1 Finances

In financial terms, 2017 was a good year for the NUT. The financial influx proceeded largely according to budget, with a total of 24 paying members. There were also a few windfalls: the organisation of the conference in Utrecht and the Teachers' Day in Groningen yielded a surplus, and the Board's travel expenses and the expenditure on marketing & communication were lower than budgeted. On the other hand, the costs of secretarial assistance were higher than expected (as a result of more hours worked and a salary increase). All in all, a positive balance of €123 remains. After this year, the reserves amount to €11,560. The budget for 2018 was established during the Managers' Meeting in Leiden.



6.2 Board members

In March 2017 Anje Dijk (University of Groningen) and Christine Engelen (University of Antwerp) stood down as Board members.

The NUT Board welcomed three new members: Gea Hakker, Katja Hunfeld and Stef Slembrouck.

The Board comprises the following five members:

-	Sylvia van der Weerden (Wageningen University & Research)	chair
-	Marc Gebuis (Utrecht University)	treasurer
-	Gea Hakker (Leiden University)	member
-	Katja Hunfeld (University of Twente)	member
-	Stef Slembrouck (Ghent University)	member

The Board will again ask Rolf Nys to assist with administrative tasks and internal communication in 2018-2019.











Sylvia van der Weerden

Marc Gebuis

Gea Hakker

Katja Hunfeld

Stef Slembrouck

7 Looking ahead

Themes

The themes of the past year will again be on the agenda in the coming year. Refugee numbers have fallen slightly but will continue to be a major focus in 2018 and beyond. Language in education will also be important, with the term 'multilingualism' proving to be the buzz word of the year (after Anglicisation).



Networks

In the light of these current themes, the networks are more important than ever. It's vital for the NUT that we profile ourselves and provide both solicited and unsolicited advice. Alongside the existing networks, we will also seek contact with other parties involved within the sector, such as the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the new Language Platform.

The biennial CercleS Conference will be held in Poznan in September this year. The board invites you all to take part.



And finally, in addition to the annual NUT Conference in March, the coming year will be used to make preparations for the 25^{th} anniversary in 2019.

March 2018

The NUT board

Gea Hakker Katja Hunfeld Marc Gebuis Stef Slembrouck Sylvia van der Weerden With thanks to Rolf Nys