

Mapping mission-oriented (innovation) policies

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Research group: Innovation Studies

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Project description

Modern-day innovation policy is increasingly tuned to addressing urgent societal challenges, rather than only spurring R&D investments. There currently is a lively debate on how timebound and ambitious 'missions' may help to mobilize and align a wide variety of stakeholders that may contribute to the development and diffusion of innovative solutions. The Dutch innovation policy strategy, for instance, has made missions a foundation of the so-called Mission-oriented Topsector and Innovation Policy ([MTIP](#)). The MTIP comprises 25 missions on the themes of Energy Transition & Sustainability; Health & healthcare, Agriculture, Water and Food; and Security.

In 2020 a group of researchers of the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development established the [Mission-oriented Innovation Policy Observatory](#) (MIPO). The MIPO's objective is to enhance the understanding, monitoring and effective use of challenge-based innovation missions. To do so, the MIPO unites policy practitioners and scholars from innovation, transition and governance studies.

Now that the MIPO is up and running, it aims to intensify its observatory activities by diving deeper into the case of the Dutch MTIP. Specifically, we want to get a better understanding of the set of policy instruments that are being mobilized to complete the mission goals as proposed by different ministries. This is where the bright mind of a student assistant should come in.

Specific tasks and outcomes: The main task is to create a database with information on policy measures with relevance for missions belonging to one or more of the 25 missions in the Dutch MTIP. Constructing this database requires desktop-research and consulting stakeholders in the field. Additionally, the student will characterize policy measures on various dimensions (year of introduction, criteria, responsible administrative body, target audience, etc.) to allow for further analyses of policy mixes. The student can contribute to investigations of e.g. possible redundancies or gaps in the policy mix.

Dependent on the preferences of the student, (s)he might also create an additional database with reports and other documents containing information on which stakeholders are engaging with missions and how they are framing them. This second database can then be used for analysis of which interests and solutions society has been prioritizing (and policies thus should be supporting).

Finally, the student may play a role in MIPO outreach activities related to e.g. website maintenance and stakeholder engagement in the form of workshops with policy practitioners.

Job requirements

Applicants should be intrigued by the topic, and preferably have a background in innovation studies. An autonomous research attitude and experience with systematic document research, interviews and MS Excel are a plus, but close methodological guidance will be provided. Applicants should have excellent communication skills in Dutch, be detail-oriented, and possess good organizing skills.