

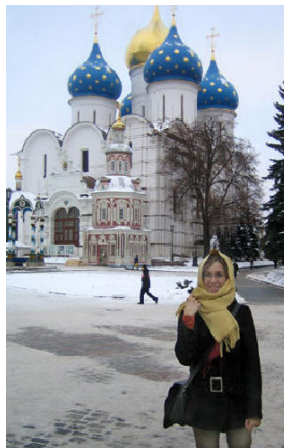


29 November 2006

### 'To Russia with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance'

On November the 16th, Academic director Chris de Neubourg and PhD fellow Lina Salanauskaite participated at a seminar in Moscow on the pension System in Russia, and more specifically 'Actuary Modelling and the Impact on the Labour Market'. The seminar was organized by TACIS Project "Pension Reform, Russian Federation" in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation. The main goal of the event was to disseminate the final TACIS Project results to the broader professional audience in Russia. Prof. de Neubourg confronted the widespread beliefs in the Russian Federation on the impact of the pension size, (e.g. "the old-age pension is so small that pensioners have to stay employed till the end of their life") and working pensioners phenomenon (e.g. pensioners continue their employment in an effort to keep themselves engaged in a public life") by focusing on the demographic situation of the elderly in Russia, the well-being of the elderly and an analysis of the working pensioners. His presentation also reviewed the findings on the regional disparities of the pension system performance. During the seminar, Prof. de Neubourg concluded that the assessment of the pension reform impact on the labour market clearly showed that the relationship between the labour market and the pensioners are diverse and crucial.

For further details on the seminar and the Pension Reform project, please visit: [www.tacispension.ru](http://www.tacispension.ru)



### Student prize for exceptional scientific work for MGSOG

Every year the Maastricht University awards students for exceptional scientific work, i.e., master thesis, internship report; there is 1 student prize per faculty. Within the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences, Henry Espinoza of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance won the faculty's prize with his thesis on 'The Role of the non-wage labour costs as inwork benefits schemes: The case of the free availability of the CTS in Peru'. The student prize 2006 will be awarded to him on Friday, the 12th of January during the Dies Natalis.

Congratulations Henry!



### **UNICEF revisited**

The first group of UNICEF participants are about to complete the training programme which they started in April this year. After studying public policy and advocacy and partnerships of children's rights both on-line and face-to-face they are now writing their final paper. The 12 best papers, selected by MGSOG, will be presented in April next year. The School will invite specialists within the field to discuss and comment on the papers. Only a month later, in May, the School welcomes the second group of participants in the e-learning phase, the start of another learning programme for UNICEF.

### **Career Day**

After a quite some inner stress and a few sleepless nights in the communication department (> "will everyone be in time, will the speakers actually show up, how many participants will there be?") we can truly say that the career day was received excitedly by visitors and speakers (e.g., Arcadis, EU, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNICEF, Deutsche Development Bank)

While in the morning there were about 51 participants of which around 30 people from the different faculties of Maastricht University, the afternoon presentations sessions varied in numbers but there were around 60 people all together at the height of the programme.

Students really enjoyed the personal stories and thought the sessions were both informative and fun! This day certainly showed that there are many opportunities in the public sector equally dynamic and challenging as within the private sector.

We are planning to organize our next career day around May 11 programme and will try to bring in even more variation in participating speakers. Don't miss out!



**Nice to meet you...Mindel van de Laar  
(Senior programme manager)**

As you probably all know, Maastricht University is one of those places that catches you. You can leave, but somehow many of us return. Like me.

After studying economics and writing my dissertation in the economics department of the UM (for those of you interested; my bestseller is on Dutch direct investments in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia...copies still available:)), I decided it would be good to leave Maastricht. I entered a career in the commercial sector, as senior analyst for the Corporate Finance and Strategy Department of the Boston Consulting Group.



The job in itself was challenging and interesting, thinking of company strategies related to mergers, acquisitions and alliances and managing the publications of BCG worldwide in that field. However, the atmosphere there was less vivacious. I sincerely missed the dynamic environment the University offers; friendliness of people, chats in the corridor, informal interaction and most importantly freedom to think and act. So, when the position as PhD coordinator became available, the decision to apply was an easy one. Since June I work on paper for the School, as coordinator of the ESPP PhD programme as well as programme manager for the Training Activities and Research projects the School offers. Since mid-October I am also physically present in the School. The period in between I spent at home on maternity leave, with my little boy Gijs (almost 4 years old) and my beautiful baby Sara (almost 4 months old) and partner Remco. My first few weeks here have been a pleasure. I appreciate the talks about PhD research proposals, like to engage in discussions on ongoing research and look forward to become active in the projects the School participates in. But my main challenge for the coming years will be to balance my working life with my young family activities – and enjoy both.

To learn more about the activities of the School please check our online agenda:

**[Maastricht Graduate School of Governance agenda>>>](#)**

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter via [info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl](mailto:info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl)

Also we would appreciate your comments and recommendations.

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