



SURF

FOUNDATION

INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

SURFfoundation works with research universities, universities of applied sciences, and research institutions to promote ICT-driven innovation throughout Dutch higher education by means of knowledge-sharing, partnerships, and incentive programmes. Working with SURFfoundation enables higher education institutions to make optimum use of ICT innovations and thus improve the quality of the education they provide. SURFfoundation's projects and activities offer ICT and education professionals a stimulating working environment in which knowledge-sharing and collaboration play a central role.

www.surffoundation.nl/education

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

SURFfoundation works with research universities, universities of applied sciences, and research institutions to promote ICT-driven innovation throughout Dutch higher education. Innovative educational projects run from identifying new opportunities to implementing the tools that are developed, taking in all the intervening stages. SURFfoundation's task is to determine what roles and tools are the most appropriate to assist institutions and when.

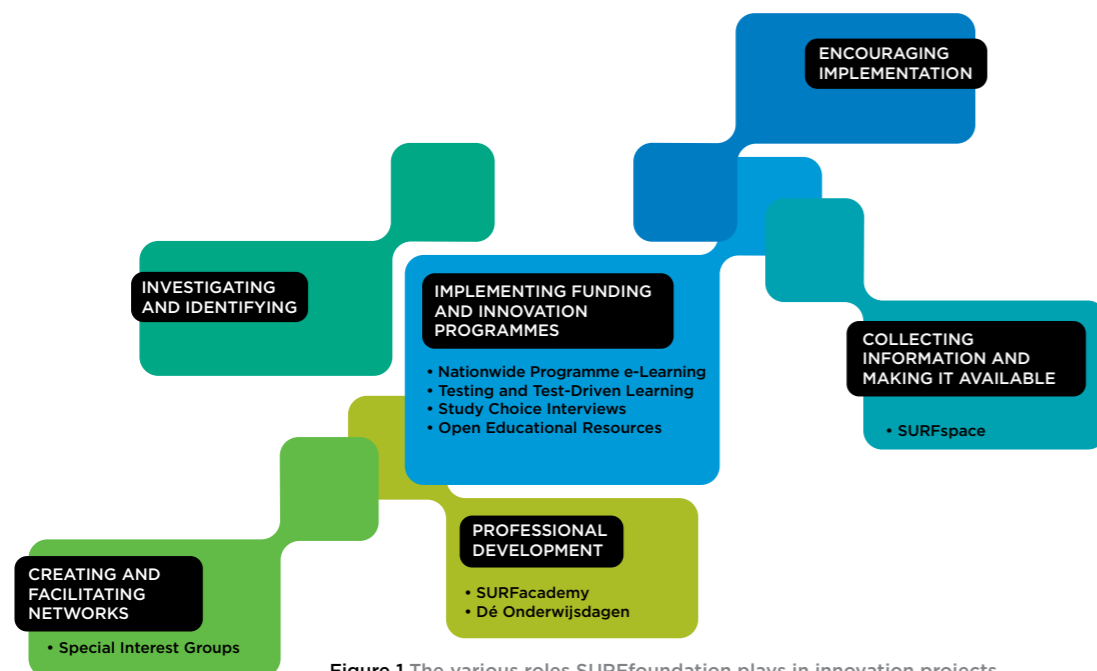


Figure 1 The various roles SURFfoundation plays in innovation projects

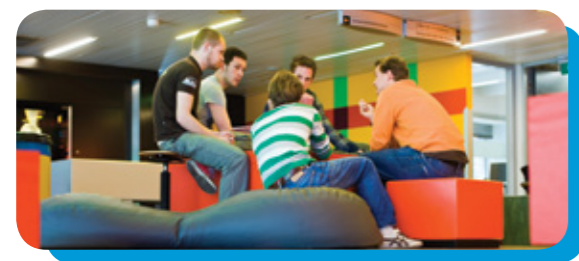
IMPLEMENTING FUNDING AND INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

SURFfoundation designs themed innovation programmes for higher education and provides project funding to institutions. In the projects, the institutions and SURFfoundation develop products and services for the higher education sector as a whole.

Nationwide Programme e-Learning

The aim of the Nationwide Programme e-Learning is to improve intake, progress, and graduation figures in higher education and increase students' academic performance. The programme produces tools to support the study choice process, student counselling, remedial programmes, and enhanced teaching techniques. Higher education institutions collaborate closely with secondary schools and vocational schools to improve the transition from secondary to tertiary education. Dialogue between the various educational levels is at least as important as the results.

>> www.surfoundation.nl/studysuccess



Testing and Test-Driven Learning

The Testing and Test-Driven Learning programme enables institutions to experiment with everything involved in the development and use of digital testing. Institutions also carry out practical research to develop specific guidelines for improving the quality of testing. SURFfoundation also helps raise the quality of testing by generating, combining, and providing know-how about digital testing within a national expertise network. The network also includes a programme of professional development for instructors, ICT and education professionals, and others involved. Support is provided for successful testing initiatives in the form of central technical infrastructures and management solutions.

>> www.surfoundation.nl/testing



Study Choice Interviews



Study choice interviews at higher education institutions can help prospective students choose the right programme, thus reducing the number of students who drop out prematurely. To establish the best way to conduct the interviews, SURFfoundation has been running a special programme - "Study Choice Interviews: What Works?" - to

enable institutions to experiment. They have been able to discover how best to organise the interviews and they have also developed specific aids, for example interview protocols, letters of invitation, and self-assessments. SURFfoundation has investigated the patterns that can be identified in successful arrangements. All higher education institutions have online access to case studies and aids. A step-by-step plan is also available to help institutions select the appropriate type of interview.

>> www.surfoundation.nl/studychoceinterviews

Open Educational Resources

All over the world, higher education institutions are increasingly making their educational resources available online for use or reuse free of charge. Examples include presentations, videos of lectures, e-books, and complete open courses. Copying, adapting, and distributing these "open educational resources" (OERs) is permitted subject to certain conditions. With its "Open Educational Resources" programme, SURFfoundation aims to raise awareness of this kind of material in the Dutch higher education sector and to help institutions develop an appropriate overall approach to using it. The programme also promotes the development and use/reuse of OERs.

>> www.surfoundation.nl/openeducationalresources



CREATING AND FACILITATING NETWORKS

Collaboration is essential in all SURFfoundation activities. SURFfoundation's theme-specific networks help ICT and education professionals and other interested parties to find a sounding board in the form of colleagues at other higher education institutions. SURFfoundation's close involvement in these networks enables it to quickly identify relevant developments and take account of them.



Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) enable interested parties to share knowledge and expertise with colleagues at other higher education institutions. There are SIGs devoted to topics related to various SURFfoundation programmes, for example Open Educational Resources, Testing and Test-Driven Learning, and Digital Rights.

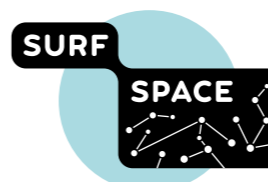
COLLECTING INFORMATION AND MAKING IT AVAILABLE

SURFfoundation collects knowledge and information about a wide variety of ICT topics and makes it available to the higher education sector. Examples include publications, project results, good practices, meeting announcements, etc.

SURFspace

SURFspace is the community platform for and by professionals who aim to innovate using ICT: policy specialists, project coordinators, advisers, educationalists, teacher trainers, educational administrators, instructors, and students. The interactive website provides up-to-the-minute information, news of the latest ICT trends, and information from the Special Interest Groups.

>> www.surfspace.nl



INVESTIGATING AND IDENTIFYING

SURFfoundation investigates and identifies new ICT developments and options in higher education, for example learning analytics and cloud computing. Using cloud services allows education institutions to provide high-quality ICT services at an acceptable price that meet the requirements of students and staff and that can easily keep step with changing needs. Learning analytics involves analysing the online behaviour of students and instructors within digital learning and working environments. This can provide valuable educational insights and generate input for quality improvement.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The knowledge and experience generated by the projects form the basis for the professional development activities organised by SURFfoundation.

SURFacademy

SURFacademy enables higher education and research professionals to study current ICT themes together with colleagues from other institutions. The themes include cloud computing, green ICT, open educational resources, and learning analytics. This wide-ranging professional development programme is made up of seminars, workshops, schools, master classes, and webinars. The nationwide exchange of knowledge within SURFacademy produces better trained education professionals and contributes to the wide use of modern ICT applications in education and research.

>> www.surf.nl/surfacademy



Dé Onderwijsdagen

Dé Onderwijsdagen (The Education Days), an annual two-day conference on ICT and education, is the leading venue for ICT specialists, policymakers, and other professionals from the whole of the Dutch education sector. It presents the latest developments and trends, the most successful ICT applications in education, and offers a great deal of scope for inspiration. Each year, about a thousand education professionals attend and benefit from a programme that shows how collaboration and innovation can produce results.

>> www.deonderwijsdagen.nl

ENCOURAGING IMPLEMENTATION

When innovation projects turn out to be successful, SURFfoundation assists institutions to make lasting use of the results, for example by helping them draw up an implementation plan.

SURF

SURF unites the Dutch research universities, universities of applied sciences, and research institutions. All of these collaborate on pioneering ICT innovations in higher education and research. Their collaboration means that the innovations go beyond the interests of the individual institutions. The impact of SURF also extends far beyond these institutions. Thanks to SURF's pioneering work, the Netherlands has become Europe's most important public Internet node; everyone in the country now has a "digital identity card" (DigiD); and software is available to the whole education sector at a remarkably low price. SURF consists of four organisations, each with its own focus: SURFfoundation, SURFnet, SURFdiensten, and SURF Shared Professional Services. More information: www.surf.nl.

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