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Date
14 May 2019

Our reference
100896/IP

Contact
H. Havekes

Subject
Letter for Institutions for Collective
Action for Horizon Impact Award

Your reference
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Dear Tine De Moor,

The *Unie van Waterschappen* (Dutch Water Authorities), an umbrella organisation of 21 water authorities in The Netherlands, has had a good and close relationship with the scientific world for many years now. This world goes beyond the technical universities and colleges. Research groups providing education and doing research on the subjects of water law, policy and administration, economics and financing – and not in the least – history, are very relevant for our organisation. You can learn from the past after all, and only know where you are going when you know where you came from. Altogether this segment of the academic world can be qualified as (water) governance. For us this is an essential research area, because, as reality in many countries has shown us, water governance is an important precondition for good water management. Our interest in this area goes beyond mere support on paper. We have supported three chairs at Utrecht University and VU Amsterdam through the Foundation *Schilthuisfonds* for many years now.

The chair at VU Amsterdam has the history of water management as its main subject. The water authorities are one of the eldest governmental institutions of our country and thus have a long and rich history. In many respects attention for their history and development is welcomed, particularly on scientific level. Not only the chair in Amsterdam, but also the one in Utrecht held by Prof. De Moor, can help address this need; particularly because the history of the water boards is far from static. The water authorities have, in the past 25 years, been 'reinvented' several times with significant changes to its duties, management and organisation. Despite all these changes, they have remained in certain respects truly 'collective', that is: a democratic system in which people in a certain area are allowed to decide *themselves* on activities, reforms and costs (within the borders of the national or provincial frameworks).

For an umbrella organisation such as ours, it is extremely important to continue to have scientific insights on the long-term developments of these, and other, collectivities because we can learn from them. The successful 2017 IASC Congress is exemplary, as it helped us outline and put into practice further developments within the water authorities. Furthermore, many water authorities are increasingly often faced with different forms of citizen initiatives, such as residents' associations and energy cooperatives. It is therefore valuable for us to be well aware of the developments and scientific insights in this area.



In sum: the work of Prof. De Moor and her research team is of great value to us in more than one respect!

Yours sincerely,

Herman Havekes
Strategic advisor board and management