

Knowledge sharing, development and application in relation to COVID-19

The global corona crisis has a major impact on our society. Not only does Tilburg University, as an organization, have to anticipate the measures taken, but we see that there are major challenges and, above all, questions about the consequences for the world. There is a need within various disciplines at the university to respond to issues surrounding this crisis, prompted by the urgency of wanting to create an impact using the knowledge and skills within our university and thus contributing to solutions to questions.

A socially responsible university in times of crisis and beyond

In some cases, national initiatives focus on shorter-term issues and solutions with technical products. Our university, on the other hand, is strong in the effects and solutions for society in the medium-term. Understanding society in optima forma, think for example of:

- Our (health) behavior: social participation, change and accountability for health behavior, quality of care, e-health.
- Our mental health: fear, loneliness, education and parenthood, physical inactivity, interventions for mental health and well-being, development and well-being of children, purpose/meaningfulness
- Economy: (consumer behavior, labor market, international trade, supply chain, digitization)
- Legal implications: (emergency laws, privacy, legal bases of emergency measures, private law consequences, consequences for crime)
- Sustainable behavior: (transport, energy use, social welfare, human rights)

What issues does society face? For example, due to built-up back-logs in non-performed care, schoolchildren struggling with digital education, bankruptcies? What insights and ideas for solutions are there from science? Which new technologies can make the difference? This may strongly influence our research agenda for the coming years. New 'societal challenges' are now emerging with a need for the knowledge that can be found at TiU.

Proposed approach for knowledge sharing, development and application at and with TiU.

1. Initiatives to identify researchers and disseminate knowledge and insights.

A page has been created on the TiU website that lists some examples of our scientists' commitment to the corona crisis. This can be further supplemented with examples and contact persons. By eg:

- Elaborate on the already created website TiU - supplement with blog articles, previously recorded podcasts.

- Interactive sessions such as Q&A with scientists for a.o. alumni, master classes and knowledge sharing sessions on the above themes. Our colleagues from Amsterdam are an example. The website set up for this purpose can be promoted in addition to TiU's social media channels via the communication resources of DARO, Impact, Sustainability and Entrepreneurship programs. In addition, we ask researchers who contribute to share this through their own social media channels whenever possible.

Action: [Register your own initiative](#) with relevant digital links.

2. Participation in external initiatives.

Several of our colleagues participate in national initiatives, such as the following:

- National portal SSH expertise COVID19 <https://ssh-covid19.nl/>
- www.resilientsociety.nl, an initiative of TU Delft, expanded with the 4TU and now supported by VSNU and NFO. The initiative includes an online platform to share "Corona knowledge" worldwide and get products and services up and running quickly. TiU can participate in the categories Life style support, Data collection and use, Systems Impact and response and Modeling and Good Governance

Action: Participate in these platforms, sign up.

3. Inventory of existing and planned initiatives and research TiU, with a view to forming (multidisciplinary) groups of researchers around 3 themes.

The purpose of this inventory is fourfold:

- Making TiU contributions (more) transparent and, where necessary, making them more accessible. See also first action.
- We expect a range of new social and research questions and funding from COVID-19 and its effects. We want to be prepared to participate (with interdisciplinary teams) in this new research agenda.
- If possible, missing relationships that are needed for upcoming research questions may already be explored or existing relationships questioned about further cooperation.
- Further profiling of TiU and its researchers as "the" university where knowledge and skills are available to gather insights about the medium-term effects of COVID-19, for example by letting our scientists think about various scenarios (3, 6, 9, 12 months lock down) and what, from their expertise, can be positive or negative effects).

To apply focus, three themes are currently being considered. The appendix contains the names of researchers who have previously expressed an interest in contributing to this, but we would like to invite researchers who may now have time based on the themes below to invite them to participate. Researchers can make themselves known to the aforementioned supporters.

a) **Coping / Resilience** ((10)(2e) (10)(2e) , [Marieke Schoots](#), [Laura Gottmer](#))

What will the health systems of the future look like? How does COVID-19 affect the current generation (how do we prevent a “corona generation”)? What are the effects of vulnerable groups on the crisis (anxiety, depression, development and well-being of children, disadvantaged “regular” care)? Are we getting more governmental involvement, is this the end of privacy? What are the health costs of this global solution to the crisis in terms of unemployment, recession, and disadvantaged care?

b) **Sustainability - global versus local** ([Marieke de Kort](#), [Dirk van den Berg](#), [Marieke Schoots](#))

Will globalization be more strictly regulated, will it be limited in movement, and will nature be better protected in order to prevent the jump from animals to human diseases? Is this the time to start up the circular economy and how? Is it time to reshoring production of certain articles as medicines? Has our behavior changed and are we no longer boarding a plane, are we now working at home and digitally? Is the digital transformation permanent?

c) **Digitization: means or ends?** ([Martin van de Broek](#), [Charly Bastiaansen](#))

What conditions are associated with the apps for a return to normal life? How can you quickly develop models to predict the spread of the pandemic, and the effects of measures? How do we learn from these crises now, so that we can make relevant information available faster and better in the future? Can we use the knowledge that is being developed in the rest of the world where the disease is still going to strike?

These activities within TiU are coordinated by Edward van de Pol (Entrepreneurship program), Frederique Knoet (Impact program) and Marieke de Kort (Sustainability program). The aim of this is to coordinate demand from society and supply from the university and to prevent over-transfer of scientists or supporting divisions. Communication staff from the Impact Team, Entrepreneurship and DARO can provide support in collaboration with Marketing & Communication.