

- **No.12**
- **Killing more than two birds with one stone: learning statistics while doing community research.**

- Name: **Verhoeven**
- First Name: **Pieterneel**
- E-Mail: [n.verhoeven@roac.nl](mailto:n.verhoeven@roac.nl)
- Organisation: **Roosevelt Academy**

- Authors: **Dr. Pieternella S. VERHOEVEN**

- **Abstract:**

- In fulfilment of the requirements for their degree, students often take research methods and statistics. However, methods and statistics is not their favourite topic, as they fail to see the added value of statistics for society, or for their future career. In order to show students how research results are put into use in the immediate region, community based research projects were introduced at a small scale college in the Netherlands. Community research projects are problem based, as the student (or –group) answers a problem question by collecting data of all sorts and reporting on the outcome of the analysis. The projects also have a transdisciplinary character. First of all, supervision takes place from several disciplinary angles. Secondly, by appointing additional supervisors from the organizations under study, the collaboration between policy makers, managers, students and expert researchers offers a unique learning experience and exchange of knowledge at all levels and for all those involved. Experiencing the process of doing applied research prepares the students well for their future careers, more so because additional academic skills (e.g. communication, management) are attained. In sum, students learn research skills, they experience the added value for the immediate society and they become better prepared for their future careers. Project evaluations show higher self-confidence and perceived mathematics skills with project- students. After participating in a community project, students value statistics better and they see its future use. More importantly, students obtain higher grades for their methods & statistics course.