



# The PE&RC PhD Council

*Connecting PhD voices, strengthening the PE&RC community*

PHD



Raghavendra Reddy Manda  
Chair, PE&RC PhD Council

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The image features a vibrant, child-friendly border with a light yellow background. The border is decorated with various elements: a multi-colored rainbow on the left and right sides, a bright yellow sun with orange and yellow rays at the top and bottom, a fluffy blue cloud at the top center, and several green leaves of different shapes, including a large monstera leaf. There are also small yellow and orange flowers scattered throughout. The central text is set against a white rectangular background.

**Who Are We?**

# The PE&RC PhD Council

## Who Are We?

*A council of PhD candidates, for PhD candidates, dedicated to enhancing the PhD experience.*

## Our Mission

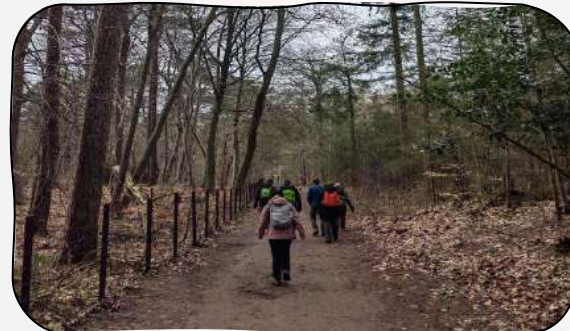
*Improve the quality of the project tracks and the well-being of doctoral candidates.*

We advise and collaborate with:

- PE&RC PhD Program Coordinators
- The PE&RC Board
- Various PE&RC Committees  
*(Both upon request and on our own initiative!)*

## What More?

- Serve as the "*knowledge and Experience Base*" for new PhD candidates.
- Organizing various events to support and enhance the PhD experience at PE&RC.



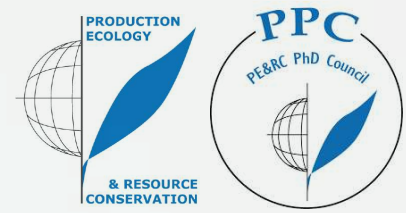
Scan the QR code to know more about the PPC





# Organization

# The Executive Team



**Raghavendra Reddy Manda**

Chair, PE&RC PhD Council  
PE&RC Board Member  
Wageningen UR Representative  
Vice Chair, Wageningen Doctoral Council



**Noa Tabak**

Vice Chair, PE&RC PhD Council  
Member of Social Committee  
Utrecht University Representative



**Utrecht  
University**



**Sarah Flickinger**

Secretary, PE&RC PhD Council  
Head of Education Committee  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Representative



# Our Key Committees

- **Education Committee** – Advises board on topics related to the educational program.
- **Buddy System Committee** – Supporting new PhD students.
- **Social Events Committee** – Creating connections beyond research.
- **PhD Representatives Committee** – Updates from all the PE&RC partner institutions on ongoing matters and share the ideas/experiences.
- **Career Committee** – Organizes activities that help PhD candidates to make future career choices.
- **PE&RC Day Committee** – Organizes the annual PE&RC Day.



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**Social Events Committee**



**PE&RC Day Committee**



**Career Committee**

You? **Amazing People** You?



**Buddy System Committee**



**PhD Representatives Committee**



**Education Committee**

# Career Committee



## Activities

- ✓ **CAREER Talk Series** (4-5 talks per year - online)  
Engage with **researchers, HR professionals, industry experts, and career service specialists** to gain valuable career insights, network, and explore future opportunities.
- ✓ **Company visits** (1-2 per year)  
To foster networking, industry exposure, and career exploration beyond academia.
- ✓ **Career hub** (launching soon)  
A platform to connect, network, and seek support from peers on career opportunities, challenges, and growth.
- ✓ **Alumni Session at Last Year's PE&RC PhD Retreat**
- ✓ **Annual Career Day?**



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EARTH  
100%





**Francesco Stagni, MSc**  
*Startup Analyst*



**Salma Rian, EngD**  
*Postdoctoral Researcher & Faculty of Impact*



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH





**Gitte Schober, PhD**  
*Coordinator*  
Center of Entrepreneurship

**Wouter Bac, PhD**  
*Founder and CEO*



**TechNature**

*Vision and Robotics for natural objects*

# PE&RC Day Committee

## Main Activity

### Organizing the annual PE&RC Day

- ✓ Developing the theme and topics for the event.
- ✓ Identifying suitable keynote speakers and coordinating their invitations.
- ✓ Deciding on the venue and catering (in close collaboration with the PE&RC Office).
- ✓ Promotional materials.
- ✓ Collaborating with other PPC committees as needed.
- ✓ Preparing the program in coordination with the PE&RC Office

You?



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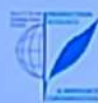
De Nieuwe World

← Voldaan  
Proeven  
Zaal 'Same'

# PE&RC Day 2025

Life in the extremes: Lessons on survival

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, Wageningen





### Where does this leave us?

HEREDITY

INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

ECOLOGY

EVOLUTION

TIME AND SPACE

- There is a strong emphasis on, and optimism for, expected solutions from the “Exact & Natural Sciences”
- But there is a point to be made that the “Social and Behavioural Sciences” should take the lead
- As whatever solution, each requires, first and foremost, personal and societal change
- So what scientist, university, society do you, do we, want to be?

# Social Events Committee

Connecting the PhD candidates beyond the research

- ✓ Mushroom-hunting walks.
- ✓ Pub quiz at the first-year retreat.
- ✓ Networking drinks (in planning).
- ✓ Supporting the organization of annual PE&RC BBQ.
- ✓ PPC summer and Christmas card exchange.



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# Education Committee



You?

- Provide information, feedback, and opinions on the PE&RC educational program.
- Meetings are scheduled based on input from the PPC and PhD candidates.



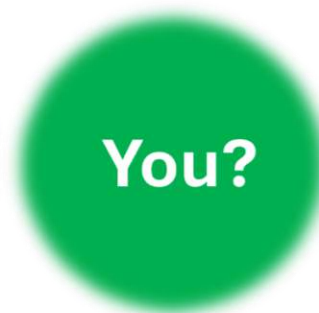
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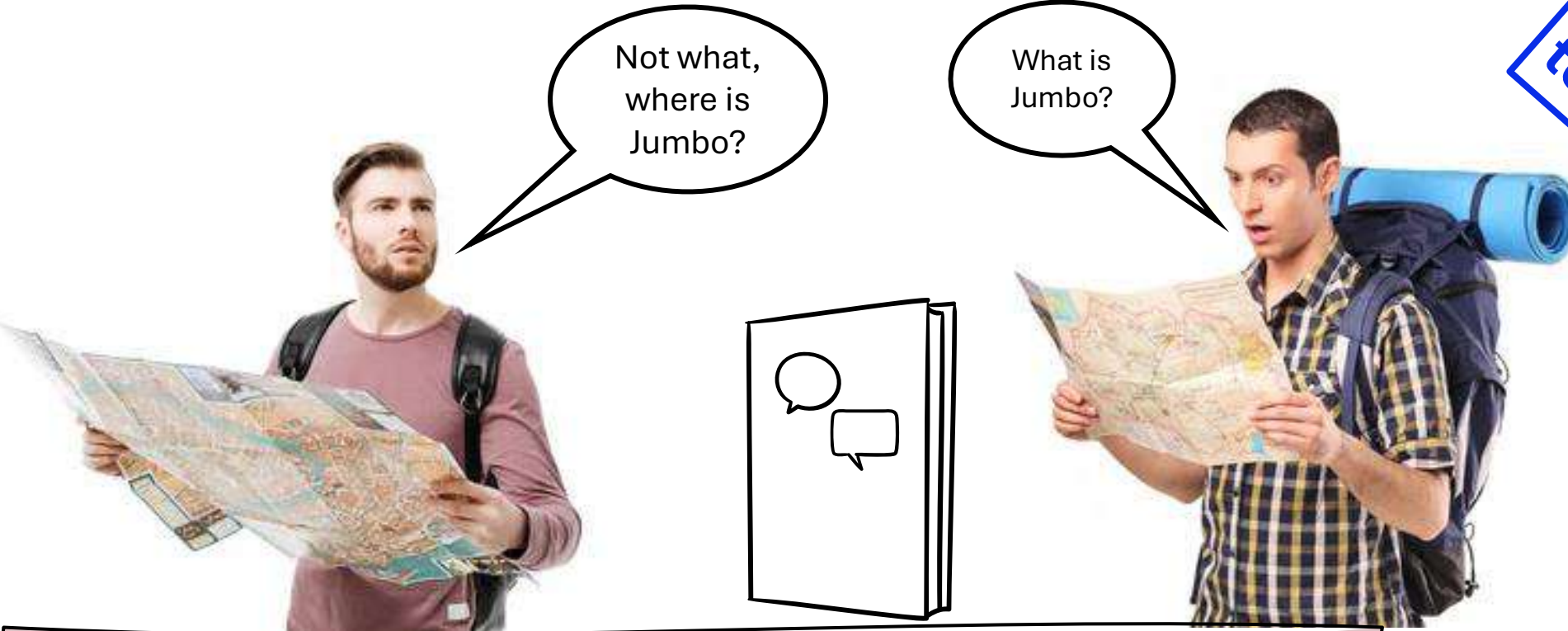
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# Buddy System Committee



Starting a PhD?  
Alone in a new country?  
Do you feel lost?



**Buddy system  
to the rescue!**

We are also looking for the new buddies!

# The Wageningen Doctoral Council

## Who Are They?

A council composed of PhD candidates from six graduate schools and EngD candidates of WUR.

## The Mission

Improve the quality of the project tracks and the well-being of doctoral candidates at WUR.

## Key Tasks:

- ✓ **Facilitate a discussion platform** where representatives from the six PhD councils and the EngD representative of WUR collaborate on issues relevant to all doctoral candidates.
- ✓ Hold (regular) **meetings** with the Dean of Research, Rector Magnificus, Executive Board, WGS, Idealis, WUR Council, and other key stakeholders.
- ✓ Address **topics** such as housing, supervision quality, concerns of (non-contract) doctoral candidates, and more.
- ✓ They are **always open to hearing from you**. Contact us at [phdcouncil@wur.nl](mailto:phdcouncil@wur.nl)



To know more about WDC, scan the QR code





**Advantages?**

# What do I get?

- ✓ Direct influence on graduate program policies and training priorities.
- ✓ Opportunity to represent PhD interests and improve doctoral working conditions.
- ✓ Experience in academic leadership, committee work, and (strategic) decision-making.
- ✓ Stronger professional network (eight partner institutes across the Netherlands).
- ✓ Collaboration with peers across disciplines, fostering interdisciplinary insights.
- ✓ Enhanced communication, negotiation, and organizational skills.
- ✓ Involvement in planning and evaluating courses, workshops, and doctoral education activities.
- ✓ Contribution to community building through social, scientific, and career events.
- ✓ Broader visibility in the research community, which strengthens academic credentials.
- ✓ Visit all the eight partner institutions as we have meetings at each location.



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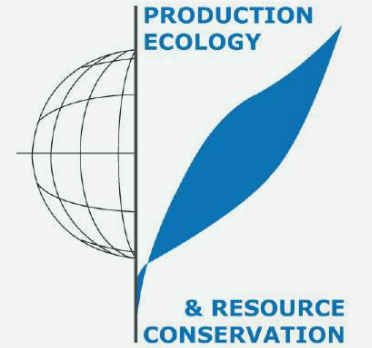




# Compensation

# Compensation

- ✓ Credits for Training and Supervision Plan – 1 ECTS per active year.
- ✓ Annual budget of EUR 8,000 is available to distribute among council members as financial compensation. Allocation will be based on each member's total hours at the end of the year.
- ✓ The budget may be used for any activity related to your PhD trajectory that is planned before graduation (the activity itself may take place after graduation).
- ✓ Eligible expenses include conferences (registration, travel, accommodation), books, thesis printing, and the obligatory PhD reception etc.
- ✓ Your travel to the PPC meetings is reimbursed.



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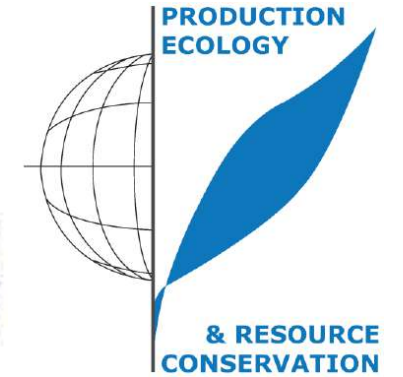
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# We are looking for new members!

- ✓ **Next meeting:** end-of-January 2026 (Hybrid) (Wageningen).
- ✓ **Contact:** [raghavendrareddy.manda@wur.nl](mailto:raghavendrareddy.manda@wur.nl) (Raghavendra Reddy Manda).



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**Thank You!**