Scholarly Research

The Fryske Akademy focuses on scholarly research into change processes within the Frisian language, multilingualism, history, and regional identity, both in the past and in the present.

Institutional and Social Integration and Collaboration

The Fryske Akademy is funded by two public grants: The Province of Friesland and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). Following the Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language (KBF), concluded between the State and the Province, the Fryske Akademy is affiliated with the KNAW. The ties with the Province of Friesland were strengthened, as in previous years, by the award of additional research funding.

For many years now, the Fryske Akademy has been collaborating with the Historical Centre Leeuwarden, Cedin, Parallel University and the Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, and the Fries Museum, Otterlo, and the Friesian colleges. For the larger part, these parties collaborate within the framework of the Minister for the Digitisation of Frisian Heritage (‘Codexlingardering Fries erfgoed’). The Fryske Akademy frequently organises lectures, seminars and public events with these and other Frisian knowledge institutions. In addition, various projects are under way within the framework of the Leeuwarden Capital of Culture 2018 event. Another example of a regionally relevant topic is the historical research into the shrinking regions, carried out in conjunction with the Province of Friesland and the municipality of Kollumerland. The Boppeslo research project and other current research projects into multilingualism and language learning have resulted in cooperation with a number of schools in Friesland.

Between 2014 and 2017, the Fryske Akademy is carrying out a language survey in the province of the Friesian language throughout the province. Moreover, the lectures, workshops and publications of our workgroups illustrate that the Fryske Akademy is firmly embedded in the province.

In 2015, our collaboration with a number of national institutions was continued and reinforced. Within the framework of three projects, we are working on an extensive corpus of spoken Frisian with Radboud University and Omrop Fryslân. The NWO project Language Portal (Taalwonen) aims cooperation between the Fryske Akademy, the Meertens Institute, Institute for Dutch Lexicology, and Leiden University. The HSSPS project was rolled out throughout the Netherlands in cooperation with various heritage institutions, regional governments, and universities. And to conclude, WEGIS, the National Archives of the Netherlands, and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands joined forces in a NWO project coordinated by the University of Amsterdam.

Thanks to these three endowed professorships and several joint doctoral research programmes, we have collaborators with the universities of Leiden, Groningen, Amsterdam, Maastricht, and Utrecht. In addition, we submitted research proposals in conjunction with Embo/Embo Technische Universiteit, and in collaboration with the University of Louvain and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

The Mercator-European Research Centre for Multilingualism and Language Learning is firmly embedded in a network of international partners. Its staff participates in the Mercator Network, made up of five research and documentation centres in Catalunya, Wales, Budapest, and the UK. The Mercator Knowledge Centre also plays a part in the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The Mercator-European Network of Schools is a collaboration between institutions from 16 European countries, including the Mercator Knowledge Centre. In addition, this Centre concluded collaboration agreements with the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University and several parties in the Basque country. As a secretary and coordinator, the Fryske Akademy is involved in various European projects with partners from Greece, Poland, Latvia, Norway, and Belgium.

International initiatives arising from other national and regional projects were accelerated. A consortium for historical research was formed in the social sciences: a socio-cultural research association, Frisian Emancipation, Emulsandemuseum, Waddenzeeakademie and the Driemere Archief. The EU programme HERITAGE V4 awarded funds for the establishment of a ‘Network of Groningen-based glottochronology and glottohistory in Northern Netherlands’ (Network for Cross-Border History in the North Netherlands).

In 2015, our collaboration with a number of national institutions was continued and reinforced. Within the framework of three projects, we are working on a large corpus of spoken Frisian with Radboud University and Omrop Fryslân. The NWO project Language Portal (Taalwonen) aims cooperation between the Fryske Akademy, the Meertens Institute, Institute for Dutch Lexicology, and Leiden University. The HSSPS project was rolled out throughout the Netherlands in cooperation with various heritage institutions, regional governments, and universities. And to conclude, WEGIS, the National Archives of the Netherlands, and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands joined forces in a NWO project coordinated by the University of Amsterdam.

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