university of groningen

Year Report

Young RUG

2025

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Introduction



Klaas Wilts
Chair YoungRUG

In this year report you will find an overview of the highlights of YoungRUG in 2025.

2025 proved to be a year in which we saw a continuation of the previously set out course. YoungRUG connected in new ways with the community, for example by offering community members to come up with their own activity and with a visit to Campus Fryslân!
The Language Buddy Programme was organized again in order to connect international community members who are interested in learning Dutch with native speakers. In 2025 we also saw the first edition of the YoungRUG Office Olympics!

YoungRUG also extended its involvement within the organization by being a part of the process of coming up with a new strategy for the University as a whole and by keeping up to date with the agenda and decisions of the Board of the University.

This is all made possible by the active members of YoungRUG! I am looking forward to what 2026 will bring us!

MISSION

YoungRUG is a community for young professionals employed at the UG. Our goal is to facilitate personal and professional development, networking, and knowledge-sharing. We foster an open and dynamic environment to encourage active participation and create a strong community.

- Established in 2019

VISION

By 2029, YoungRUG is a more established network within the UG and we are the knowledge platform for young professionals. We act as an advisory and sparring partner to upper management on topics related to attracting and retaining young professionals.

YoungRUG provides insight into possibilities and career paths within the UG that young professional can take. Through our dynamic events, we provide a stimulating environment for networking and personal and professional development.

YoungRUG is a community where young professionals come together and can learn from each other.

What's new?

Meeting with the Board of the University

Our yearly meeting with the Board resulted in an agreement that decision lists will now be shared with us for review, allowing us to identify and address topics relevant to young professionals. This way, we can proactively engage with issues that matter to our target group. Additionally, the meeting with the Board provided valuable insights into the themes that resonate with young professionals. Some topics, such as burnout prevention, were surprising to the Board. They were happy to gain this insight from YoungRUG and asked us to keep them informed about topics that are important to young professionals.

Board day (Besturendag)

YoungRUG was invited for the first time to the Board Day (Besturendag). This invitation, as part of the development of the new Institutional Plan, marked a significant recognition of our role within the University. We got the chance to serve as a sparring partner in discussions about the future of the University of Groningen. It was a valuable opportunity to actively contribute to the strategic vision and represent the interests and ideas of young professionals.

What's new?

Wildcard event

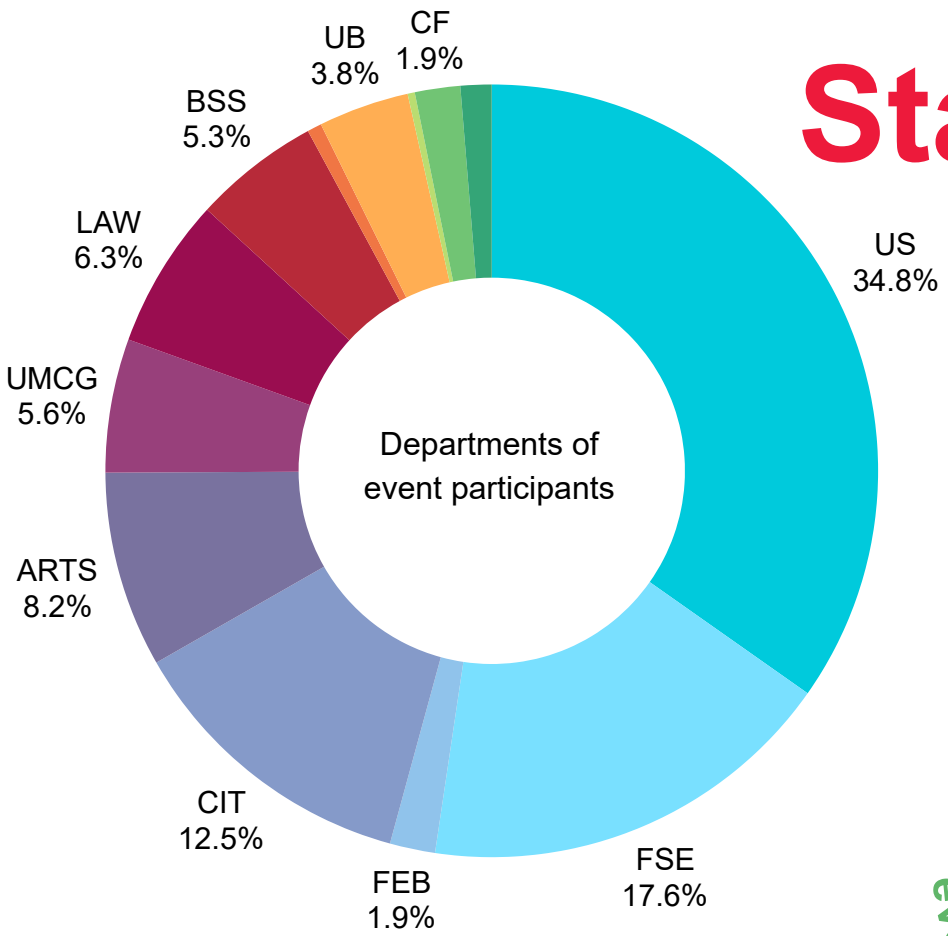
2025 was the first year we introduced the Wildcard event. The Wildcard event gave young professionals at the UG the chance and a € 1000 budget to organize a YoungRUG event without having to be an active member. A group of three community members came up with the great idea of doing a running dinner. The activity was a huge success and even gained some attention from local television!



Changes in the board

As of May 2025, Lucia Jansen took over Susanne Dijk's position as communications officer in the board. In December 2025, Hendrik Visser stepped down as secretary from the board.

Statistics



653 followers on Instagram

14 active members

5 board members

319 participants of events in 2025
only the events with registration

15 events organized in 2025

185 followers on LinkedIn

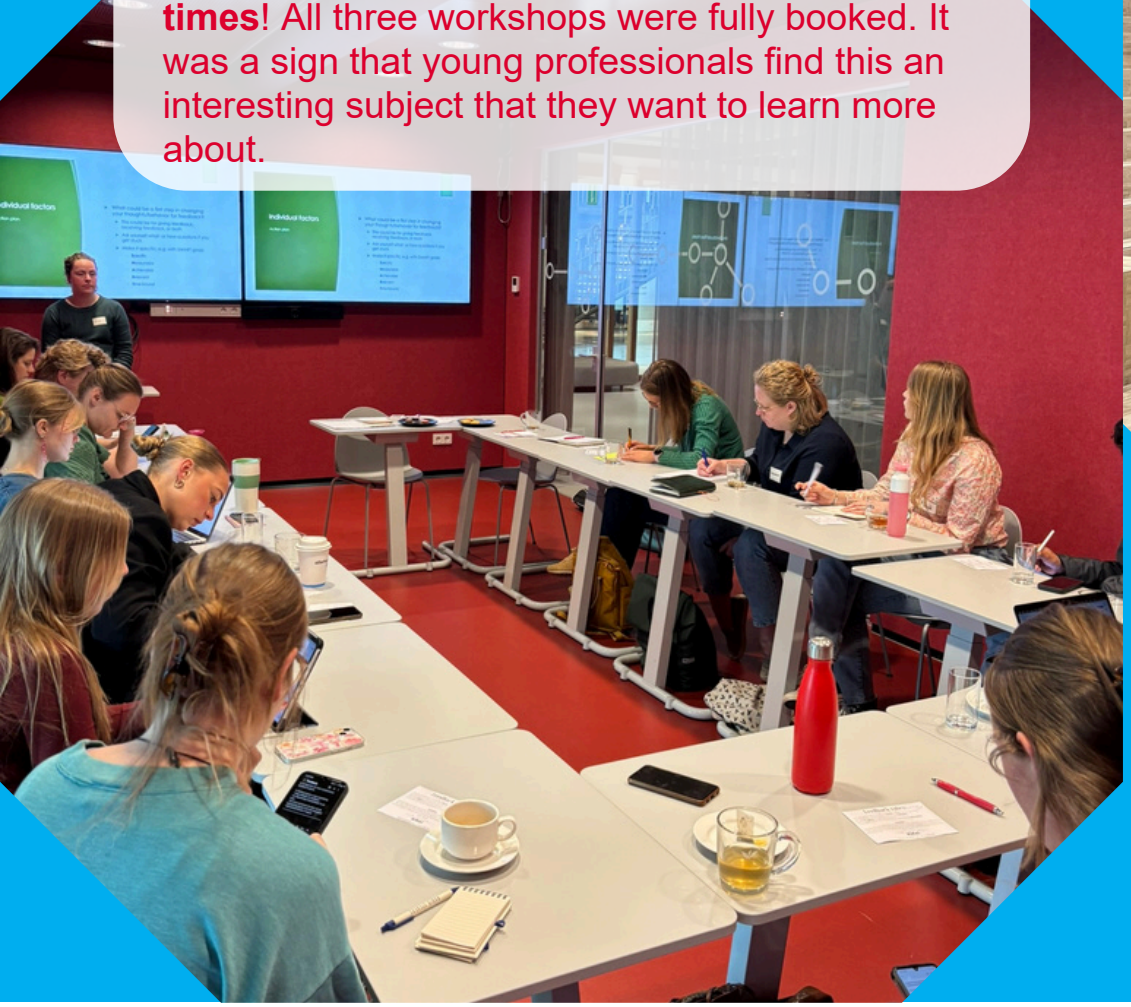
11.094 total website visits in 2025

170 unique participants

Something to remember

Workshop constructive feedback

In 2025, this workshop was organized **three times**! All three workshops were fully booked. It was a sign that young professionals find this an interesting subject that they want to learn more about.





YR on tour to Campus Fryslân

With 'YoungRUG on tour' we visit different faculties and services to get a sneak peek into what's happening there. After visiting the University Library in 2019 and the UMCG in 2022, now it was time to go to Campus Fryslân!

Something to remember

Alumni drinks

At the end of 2024 we first organized the alumni drinks. During the drinks, YoungRUG former active members (alumni) got a chance to reconnect with familiar faces, meet the current generation of YoungRUG active members, and share stories over a relaxed borrel.





YR x YAG city walk

Our yearly activity with the YAG was a city walk in Groningen. The tour guide took us to our city's charming narrow alleys and well-preserved medieval guesthouses and courtyards.

Something to remember

Office olympics

In 2025 we launched a new activity: the office olympics. We played classic office games like wireless mouse sjoelen, file cabinet basketball and memo plane throwing. It was a lot of fun!



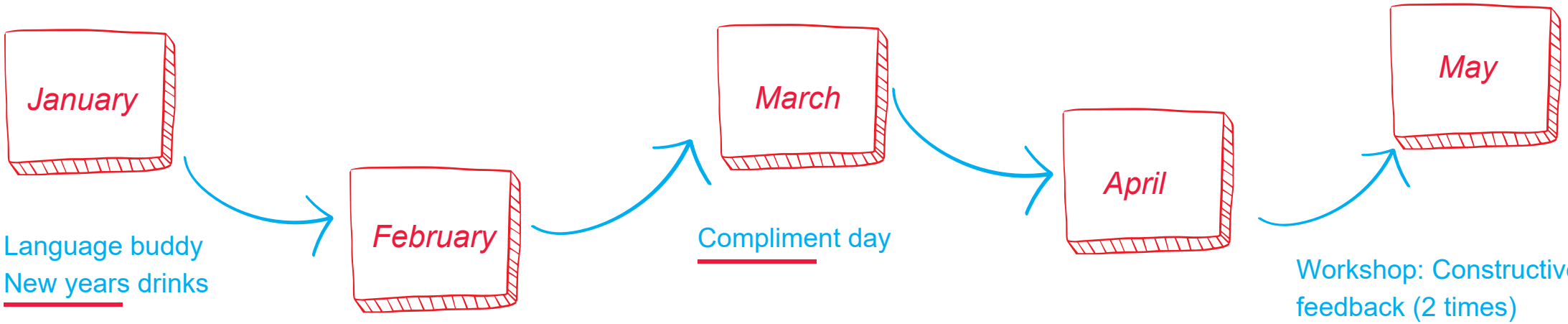


Active members weekend

After last year's success, the Active Members Weekend was organized again. We did all kinds of fun activities such as quizzes, canoeing and we built a - very stable - raft together!

**no YoungRUG budget was used for the Active Members Weekend*

Events



Language buddy
New years drinks

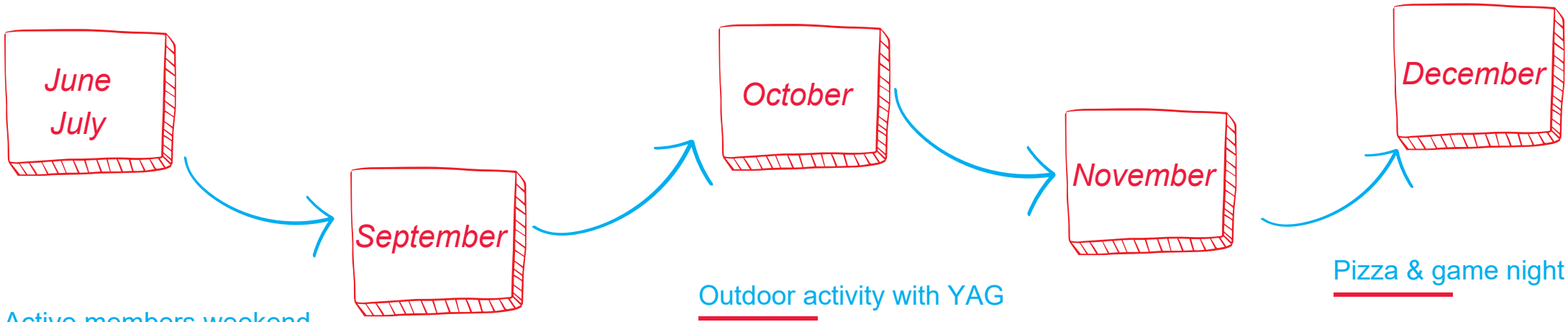
Laser gaming
Info meeting new employees
Lecture: Building a career in educational support

Compliment day

Office olympics
Workshop: Creativity

Workshop: Constructive feedback (2 times)

Events



Active members weekend
Running dinner
Dungeons & Dragons

YoungRUG on tour to Campus Fryslân
Mentor programme
Info meeting new employees

Outdoor activity with YAG

Brainstorm YoungRUG activities 2026
Alumni drinks
Workshop: Constructive feedback

Pizza & game night

Testimonials



The great thing about the YoungRUG community is that it allows you to look beyond the boundaries of your own team and organization.

Not only is it fun to get to know other young professionals, it is also a good way to find out what is going on within the University.

As the board of YoungRUG, we can use this information to set out strategic guidelines and provide both solicited and unsolicited advice to the managers of the University of Groningen.

- Bas Teunissen
Board member



Each year, YoungRUG helps an increasing number of young professionals connect across the UG, find their way in a large organization and discover opportunities for career and personal growth.

As a YoungRUG Member, I enjoy organizing initiatives that tackle relatable topics for young colleagues, whether it is a specific skill workshop, a mentoring-related activity, or a social event that lowers the threshold to talk about career questions. Through this involvement, I not only strengthen my own network and skills, but also contribute to a more open, accessible UG where young professionals can learn from each other and feel encouraged to take the next step in their careers.

I am proud of how YoungRUG gives young professionals room to explore and shape their own route within the University.

- Sindi Hoxha
Active member



For me, YoungRUG has been a good way to connect more closely with colleagues, including many I wouldn't normally come across.

It shows how many different roles and perspectives there are within the University. I've grown my network through it in a very effortless and laid-back way, and it gives you a clearer sense of what happens in other corners of the UG.

The events are varied and a lot of fun. If you're unsure about joining, I'd really recommend giving it a try. It's been a nice addition to my professional and social life.

- Sylvester Valens
Community member




YoungRUG








YoungRUG






LET IT SNOW

Active & Board Members


Klaas


Bas


Tristan
From April


Mariska


Sofie

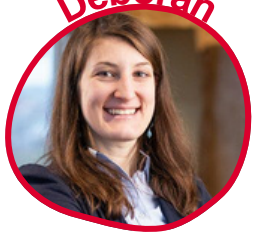

Lucia


Susan
From April


Davida


Susanne


Mariolein
Until November


Deborah


Hendrik
Until December


Sophie
From November


Frederiek


Iris
From November


Bart


Sindi


Mariël
From November


Joris


Paul
Until December


Tim


Wyona
Student-assistent

Contact

Do you want to know more about YoungRUG?
Or do you have good ideas or suggestions?

Contact us!

rug.nl/youngrug
young@rug.nl

Our webpage:

Add our activities to your Google calendar: