



# ITE/IEXMH

ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ  
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**ΟΜΙΛΗΤΗΣ:** **Merlijn van Rijswijk, MSc MBA**  
Director Netherlands Metabolomics Centre  
The Netherlands

**ΘΕΜΑ:** **Science and industry working on societal challenges**

**ΤΟΠΟΣ:** Αίθουσα Σεμιναρίων ITE/IEXMH

**ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ:** **Τρίτη, 7 Μαΐου 2019**

**ΩΡΑ:** **12:30**

## ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

During my presentation I will highlight from personal experience how science, government and industry can fruitfully work together, but also pointing out the challenges this poses. The journey begins working for the Ministry of Economic Affairs developing Technology Roadmaps on Catalysis for the Chemical Industries. Thereafter I will highlight the transformation in innovation policy towards “Topsectors”, aligning scientific and industrial innovator agenda’s. This was followed by a policy change towards achieving more societal impact. This is causing increasing tensions between academic freedom in fundamental research, and the objectives of achieving impact and valorization. Nonetheless public private collaboration is engrained in our ways of working, and this has created a climate in which scientific findings are more easily translated into solutions for scientific challenges. From a more personal note I will show that even without PhD one can work alongside scientists and contributing towards impactful research.



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## Short Bio

Merlijn van Rijswijk obtained masters degrees in Chemistry (Utrecht Universiteit, 1994), Biotechnology (Delft University of Technology, 1997) and Business Administration (Rotterdam School of Management, 2013). During his professional life, he has been involved in establishing and managing public-private partnerships, working for the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs on catalysis, life sciences, robotics, aerospace industries and fore sighting. In addition, he was project leader for the Innovation Platform, an Advisory Council chaired by Prime Minister Balkenende on Innovation and Competitiveness. Currently, he is Director of the Netherlands Metabolomics Centre, Board member of the European Metabolomics Infrastructure Foundation and Manager of Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences Projects Foundation, which is hosting the Dutch node of ELIXIR.