INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

for Dutch-speaking MSc students

Date: January 8, 2021
From: Voedingsjungle; Michelle van Roost and Manon van Eijsden
Topic: Internship | Dutch municipal approaches in combatting youth obesity in the Netherlands

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Are you a Dutch-speaking student (MSc level) with an interest in child nutrition and child obesity prevention? Would you like to gain experience in qualitative research, more specifically in conducting focus group discussions with Dutch municipal officers on their municipal approach to combatting childhood obesity? Then we have the perfect internship opportunity for you!

Background
The WHO Independent High-Level Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) states that local government, i.e. cities, have an important role in taking a systematic approach to fostering people's health (1). In the Netherlands, about one third of the municipalities implement the Youth on a Healthy Weight approach, originally based on the French EPODE approach, community-wide integrated approach in combatting overweight and obesity (2). These municipalities could offer a wealth of information regarding the design, implementation and evaluation of such approach, that may help other local governments, in other countries, to combat youth obesity. The NWGN project Urban Learnings aims to collect, organize and analyze this wealth of information. The gathered learnings on effective approaches will be shared among (local) governments in other countries, in particular in low and middle income countries (LMICs). We – Voedingsjungle, a consultancy agency in infant and child nutrition – have been selected to led this project. Within the project, we have an internship opportunity available for Dutch-speaking students (MSc level) with an interest in child nutrition and obesity prevention programs.

Internship opportunity: qualitative research in municipalities
To systematically collect and analyze the information on Dutch municipal approaches, we aim to conduct a qualitative study in 23 Dutch municipalities implementing the 'Youth on a Healthy Weight approach'. These municipalities have been selected based on their population size and population density, in line with the Degree of Urbanization definition of cities (3). Policy officers dedicated to implementing the 'Youth on a Healthy Weight approach' in their municipality will be invited to focus groups discussion to discuss the implementation of their approach and the enablers and barriers they encounter. Due to Covid-19, focus group are likely to be online. Ideally, three student from different universities will collaborate in this project, with each their own sub question to be analyzed. Starting date for the internship is February 2021, minimal duration is 4 months.

What we offer
With this internship, we offer students the opportunity:
* to work on a large-scale project with other students as well as with national and international professionals;

* to gain experience in designing and conducting qualitative research in municipalities;
* to gain insight in the implementation of large, community-based integrated approaches to combatting childhood overweight and obesity.

How to apply
To apply, please send your motivation letter and CV to Manon van Eijsden (manon@voedingsjungle.nl) as soon as possible, with topic 'Application internship NWGN Urban Learnings'. If you have any questions, please contact Manon by e-mail or WhatsApp (06-11075827).

1. Time to deliver: report of the WHO Independent High-Level Commission on Noncommunicable Diseases; https://www.who.int/ncds/management/time-to-deliver/en/
2. Wilderink L. Bakker I, Schuit AJ, Seidell JC, Renders CM. Key elements of a successful integrated community-based approach aimed at reducing socioeconomic health inequalities in the Netherlands: A qualitative study. Plos One 2020; 15(10):e0240757.
3. A recommendation on the method to delineate cities, urban and rural areas for international statistical comparisons; https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3j-Recommendation-E.pdf