

WE ARE IN A CRISIS... OR NOT?

How the recession is affecting the careers of Wageningen alumni

We are continually being bombarded with depressing figures about the economy. However, are Wageningen alumni experiencing the consequences of the recession in their own careers?

Silvia Blok, KLV job market researcher, has taken a look at the figures from the surveys that Wageningen alumni complete when they graduate. To be honest it is not that bad: "The differences over the past 5 years are not that great, and certainly not if these are viewed over a period of 20 years."

What do the figures tell us? At the start of the 1990s, less than 40% had a job on graduating and only at the end of the 1990s

did that become more than 50%. In 2006, graduates suddenly scored well: 80% had a job straightaway. That record has not been equalled in the last 5 years. Of those who graduated in 2011-2012, 59% of the students who sought a PhD position had one on graduating and for other jobs that figure was 55%.

All things being considered, there appears to be little reason to worry. Blok: "In 2007-2008, 61% of recent graduates managed to find a job at Masters level. In 2011-2012 that figure was 46%." Yet according to the WO-monitor, Wageningen graduates are not doing too badly; in 2009, 79% found a job at their own level as opposed to a national average of 71%. Blok: "Initially graduates

might accept something different but they soon find a job at their own level and in their own discipline."

And what about Wageningen alumni who are further in their careers? KLV has not noticed any extra calls from its membership for legal assistance in the case of dismissal, for coaching, for personal consultation and/or for a request for a reduction in the membership fee.

